



Return to sender: High court to hear undeliverable mail case

By JESSICA GRESKO

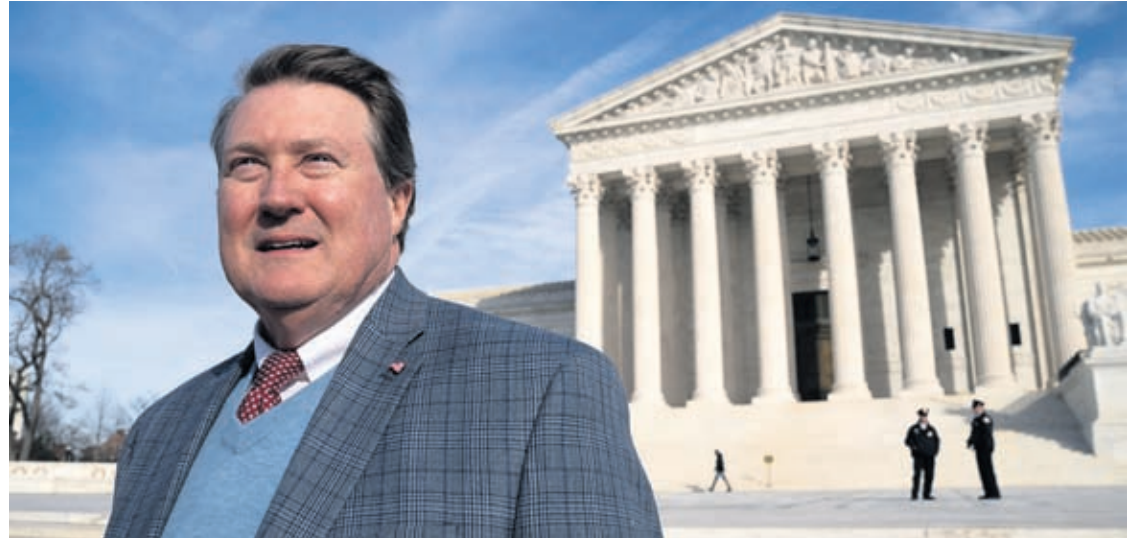
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Mitch Hungerpiller thought he had a first-class solution for mail that gets returned as undeliverable, a common problem for businesses that send lots of letters.

But the process he helped develop and built his small Alabama technology company around has resulted in a more than decadelong fight with the U.S. Postal Service, which says his solution shouldn't have been patentable. The David vs. Goliath dispute has now arrived at the Supreme Court. On Tuesday, the justices will hear Hungerpiller's case, which involves parsing the meaning of a 2011 patent law.

"All I want is a fair shake," said Hungerpiller, who lives in Birmingham and is a father of three.

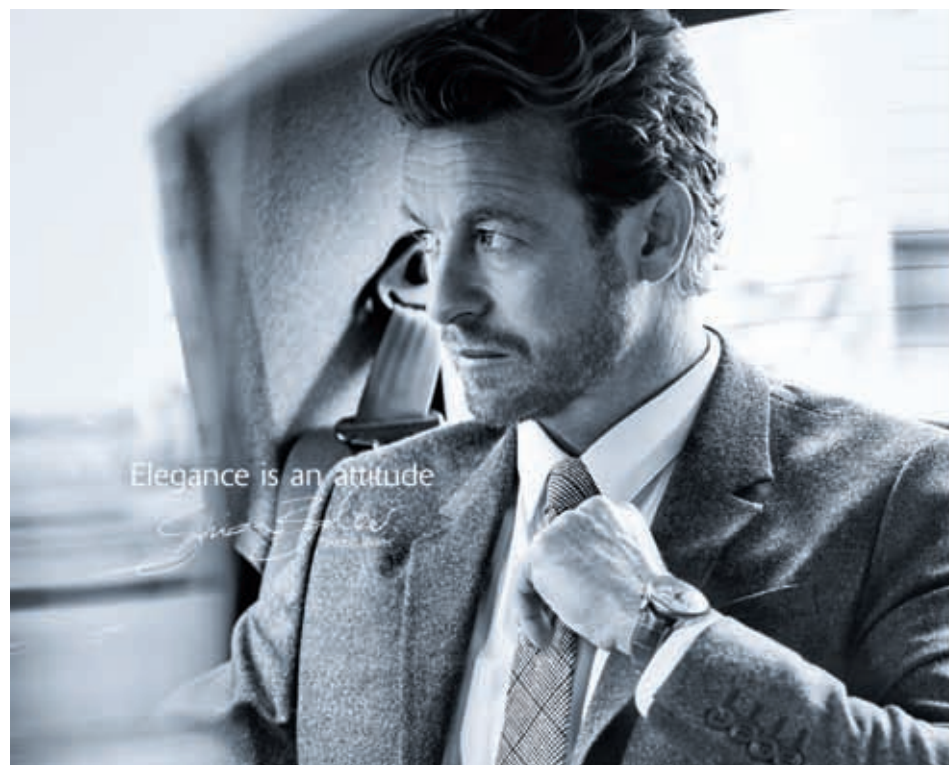
Hungerpiller, 56, started thinking seriously about returned mail in 1999 when he was doing computer consulting work.



Mitch Hungerpiller of Birmingham, Ala., who invented a computerized system to automate the processing of returned mail, visits the Supreme Court in Washington, on Feb. 14, 2019, where his decade-long fight with the post office over patent infringement will be heard.

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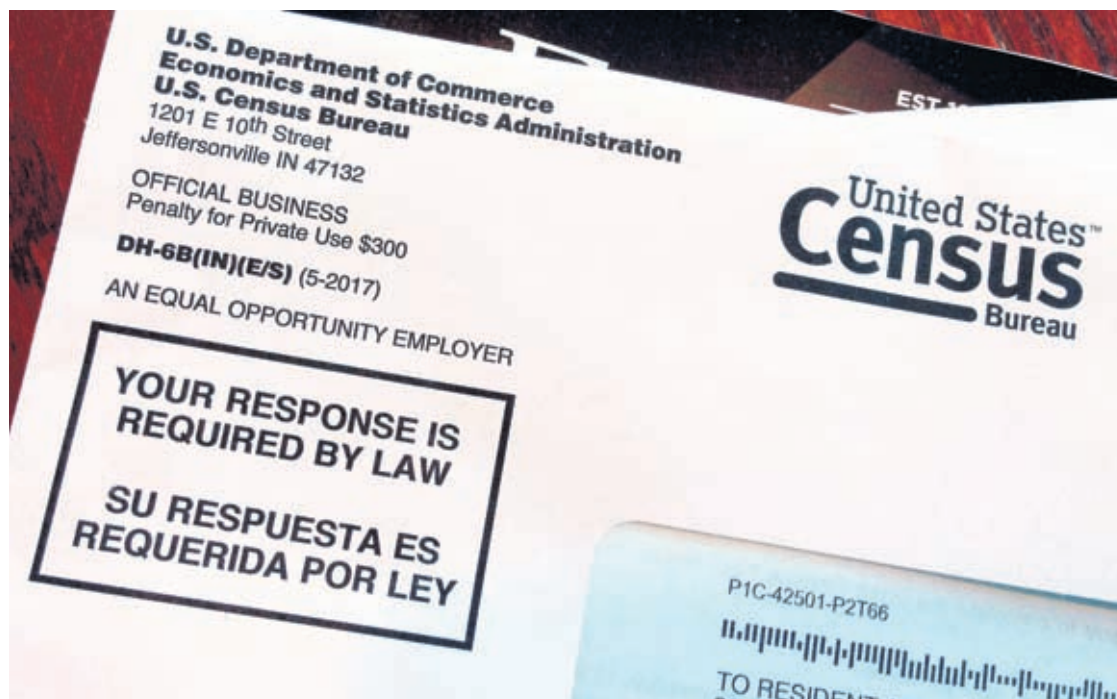
Potential privacy lapse found in Americans' 2010 census data

BY SETH BORENSTEIN

AP Science Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — An internal team at the Census Bureau found that basic personal information collected from more than 100 million Americans during the 2010 head count could be reconstructed from obscured data, but with lots of mistakes, a top agency official disclosed Saturday. The age, gender, location, race and ethnicity for 138 million people were potentially vulnerable. So far, however, only internal hacking teams have discovered such details at possible risk, and no outside groups are known to have grabbed data intended to remain private for 72 years, chief scientist John Abowd told a scientific conference. The Census Bureau is now scrapping its old data shielding technique for a state-of-the-art method that Abowd claimed is far better than Google's or Apple's.

Some former agency chiefs fear the potential privacy problem will add to the worries that people will



This March 23, 2018, file photo shows an envelope containing a 2018 census letter mailed to a U.S. resident as part of the nation's only test run of the 2020 Census.

avoid answering or lie on the once-every-10-year survey because of the Trump administration's attempt to add a much-debated citizenship question.

The Supreme Court on Friday announced that it would rule on that proposed question, which has been criticized for being political and not properly tested in the field. The cen-

sus count is hugely important, helping with the allocation of seats in the House of Representatives and distribution of billions of dollars in federal money.

The 8 billion pieces of statistics in census data are supposed to be jumbled in a way so what is released publicly for research cannot identify individuals for more than seven decades. In 2010,

Associated Press

the Census Bureau did this by swapping similar household information from one city to another, according to Duke University statistics professor Jerome Reiter.

In the internal tests, Abowd said, officials were able to match of 45 percent of the people who answered the 2010 census with information from public and commercial data sets such as Facebook. But errors in this technique meant that only data for 52 million people would be completely correct — little more than 1-in-6 of the U.S. population.

He said the 2010 census used the best possible privacy protection available, but hackers since then have become more skilled in reconstructing data. To counter their growing abilities, the agency has completely changed the system for 2020 and will offer the "gold standard" of privacy regardless of the fate of the citizenship question, Abowd said.

People "want to know that statistical tables aren't going to come back and haunt them," Abowd said at the American Association for the Advancement of Science's annual meeting. "I promise the American people they will have the privacy that they deserve."

Georgetown University provost Robert Groves, who headed the 2010 census, said the count had the proper privacy

and that every census improves. He lauded the new steps.

Former agency chief Kenneth Prewitt, a professor of policy at Columbia University, said the basic information such as age and ethnicity, even if publicly revealed, isn't as big a deal as other data breaches.

"There is a widespread privacy anxiety out there that is very much related to Facebook and Google and so forth," Prewitt said. "I'm much more worried about the fact that my iPhone follows me around every day." In a statement, Apple's Fred Sainz took issue with such privacy concerns: "The iPhone doesn't follow you around all day long — Apple has no idea where you are nor do we care. And Apple does not sell information to companies." He noted, however, that consumers can choose apps that know their location. Abowd said "the 2020 census will be the safest and best protected ever. And this is not as easy as it sounds." The new system involves complex mathematical algorithms that inject "noise" into the data, making it harder to get accurate information and providing "a very strong guarantee" of privacy, said Duke University computer sciences professor Ashwin Machanavajjhala. This increases privacy while lowering the accuracy for researchers who use the statistics. Think of it as one set of knobs being dialed up while a second is dialed down at the same time. The decision on the official privacy/accuracy setting for 2020 hasn't been set. Abowd said policy officials, not engineers or scientists, will make that call. The Census Bureau tried this system in a 2018 survey using an ultra-strict privacy setting that, while not directly comparable to Google or Apple, is hundreds if not thousands of times more secure for privacy than what's now being used on data from searches using Google Chrome or Apple's iPhone, Duke's Reiter said. □



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Return to Sender

Continued from Front

While visiting clients he kept seeing huge trays of returned mail. He read that every year, billions pieces of mail are returned as undeliverable, costing companies and the Postal Service time and money.

So he decided to try to solve the problem. He developed a system that uses barcodes, scanning equipment and computer databases to process returned mail almost entirely automatically. His clients, from financial services companies to marketing companies, generally direct their returned mail to Hungerpiller's company, Return Mail Inc., for processing. Clients can get information about whether the mail was actually correctly addressed and whether there's a more current address.

Hungerpiller says developing Return Mail's system took several years. As part of the process, the company applied for a patent. In 2004, right before Thanksgiving, Hungerpiller got a call with good news. The company would be issued U.S. Patent No. 6,826,548.

"Oh I was so thankful. Best Thanksgiving of my life," he said, describing the phone call as "just a wow moment." To celebrate he bought decorative copies of the patent for company leaders. His copy, a plaque about the size of a piece of paper, hangs in his office next to a painting of his late father.

Even early on, the Postal Service expressed interest in Return Mail's invention,

Hungerpiller said. By 2006, the government and Return Mail were talking about licensing options and a formal pilot program. Partnering with the Postal Service, Hungerpiller said, would have "changed my life." But the Postal Service ultimately developed its own, similar system for processing returned and undeliverable mail, announcing its launch in 2006.

"I was crushed. I got a dagger in my back," Hungerpiller said. And his business suffered. "Bottom line is that we had to lay off employees," Hungerpiller said, adding that it "suffocated the business."

The Postal Service soon went further. It tried to get Return Mail's patent invalidated, but failed. Return Mail sued the Postal Service, arguing that the government should pay for using Return Mail's invention without permission.

A spokesman for the Postal Service declined to comment on the case because it is ongoing.

Just as Hungerpiller thought his company might be gaining the upper hand, the Postal Service switched tactics, successfully using a 2011 patent law overhaul to invalidate Return Mail's patent.

Now, at the Supreme Court, Return Mail's lawyers are arguing that the Postal Service can't use that law, the Leahy-Smith America Invents Act, to challenge Return Mail's patent. The law says that a "person who is not the owner of a patent," can file a patent challenge using the law.

The Postal Service doesn't count as a "person," Return Mail's lawyers say. The government disagrees. The Supreme Court will decide who is right.


Hungerpiller said he's pleased the Supreme Court wants to at least hear his case. He said what he has been through to get to this point hasn't made him lose faith in his government. Most days he wears an American flag pin, something he has done since 9/11. He calls himself a "proud American."

"This is just a process," he said. "I honestly believe that one day I'll get justice." □



Mitch Hungerpiller of Birmingham, Ala., who invented a computerized system to automate the processing of returned mail, visits the Supreme Court in Washington, on Feb. 14, 2019, where his decade-long fight with the post office over patent infringement will be heard.

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White House indicates Trump to veto disapproval of emergency



In this Jan. 2, 2019, file photo White House senior adviser Stephen Miller listens as President Donald Trump speaks during a cabinet meeting at the White House in Washington.

Associated Press

By **ZEKE MILLER**
Associated Press
WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. (AP) — President Donald Trump is prepared to issue the first veto of his term if Congress votes to disapprove his declaration of a national emergency along the U.S.-Mexico border, a top White House adviser said on Sunday.

White House senior adviser Stephen Miller told "Fox News Sunday" that "the president is going to protect his national emergency declaration." Asked if that meant Trump was ready to veto a resolution of disapproval, Miller added, "He's going to protect his national emergency declaration, guaranteed." The West Wing is digging in for fights on multiple fronts as the president's effort to go around Congress to fund his long-promised border wall faces bipartisan criticism and multiple legal challenges. After lawmakers in both parties blocked his requests for billions of dollars to fulfill his signature campaign pledge, Trump's declared national emergency Friday shifts billions of federal dollars earmarked for military construction to the border.

California Attorney General Xavier Becerra told ABC's "This Week" that his state would sue "imminently" to block the order, after the American Civil Liberties Union and the nonprofit watchdog group Public Citizen announced Friday they were taking legal action. Democrats are planning to introduce a resolution disapproving of the declaration once Congress returns to session and it is likely to pass both chambers. Several Republican senators are already indicating they would vote

against Trump — though there do not yet appear to be enough votes to override a veto by the president. The White House's Miller insisted that Congress granted the president wide berth under the National Emergencies Act to take action. But Trump's declaration goes beyond previous emergencies in shifting money after Congress blocked his funding request for the wall, which will likely factor in legal challenges. Trump aides acknowledge that Trump cannot meet his pledge to build the wall by the time voters decide whether to grant him another term next year, but insist his base will remain by his side as long as he is not perceived to have given up the fight on the barrier. Sen. Chris Coons, D-Del., told CBS's "Face the Nation" that he believes Congress needs to act to "defend" its powers of the purse.

"I do think that we should not set the terrible precedent of letting a president declare a national emergency simply as a way of getting around the congressional appropriations process," he said.

Rep. Will Hurd, R-Texas, a critic of Trump's border policies, said he would support legislation to review Trump's emergency declaration, saying, "It sets a dangerous precedent."

Trump ally Rep. Jim Jordan, R-Ohio, told ABC that he believes there are enough GOP votes to prevent the supermajorities required to override a veto.

"I think there are plenty of votes in the House to make sure that there's no override of the president's veto," he said. "So it's going to be settled in court, we'll have to wait and see." □

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Disgraced ex-Congressman Anthony Weiner released from prison

AYER, Mass. (AP) — Disgraced former Congressman Anthony Weiner has been released from federal prison after being convicted of having illicit online contact with a 15-year-old girl in 2017.

The Federal Bureau of Prisons website shows the 54-year-old New York Democrat is currently in the custody of its Residential Re-entry Management office in Brooklyn, New York.

It's not immediately clear when Weiner was transferred and where he's staying now, but Weiner will have to register as a sex-offender and spend three years on supervised release under the terms of his sentence.

The prison bureau, federal prosecutors in New York and Weiner's lawyer didn't respond to emails seeking comment Sunday.

Weiner began serving a 21-month prison sentence at the Federal Medical Center Devens, located about 40 miles (64 kilometers) west of Boston in Ayer, Massachusetts, in November 2017. The bureau website shows Weiner is slated to complete his sentence May 14, a few months earlier than scheduled because of good conduct in prison. A once-rising star in the Democratic Party who served nearly 12 years in Congress, Weiner had a dramatic and sordid fall from grace after he sent a lewd picture of himself to a college student over Twitter in 2011.

Weiner initially claimed his account had been hacked, then admitted he'd had inappropriate online interactions with at least six other women while married to top Hillary Clinton aide Huma Abedin. Weiner resigned from Congress that year but mounted a campaign for New York City mayor in 2013.



In this Sept. 25, 2017 file photo, former Congressman Anthony Weiner leaves federal court following his sentencing in New York.

Associated Press

But his personal behavior was again his undoing after it was disclosed he sent explicit photos under the alias "Carlos Danger" to at least one woman after resigning from Congress.

Weiner ultimately garnered less than 5 percent of the vote in the Democratic primary.

His final fall came in 2017 after prosecutors say he sent a series of sexually explicit messages to a North Carolina high school student. Weiner pleaded guilty to transferring obscene material to a minor.

At his sentencing, he said he'd been a "very sick man for a very long time" because of his sex addiction.

Weiner's attorney said the ex-lawmaker likely exchanged thousands of messages with hundreds of women over the years and was communicating with up to 19 women when he encountered the teenager.

Abedin also filed for divorce from Weiner in 2017. But the two, who have a young son together, later agreed to discontinue the case in order to negotiate their separation privately. □

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School board in Virginia may end transgender bathroom ban

By **BEN FINLEY**
Associated Press

NORFOLK, Va. (AP) — For nearly four years, Gavin Grimm has been suing his former school district after it banned him from using the boys bathrooms in high school.

Along the way, he's become a national face for transgender rights. His case almost went to the U.S. Supreme Court. He graduated and moved to California but kept fighting. The school board in Virginia may finally be giving in, although not in court. It will hold a public hearing Tuesday to discuss the possibility of allowing transgender students to use restrooms that correspond with their gender identity.

"I have fought this legal battle for the past four years because I want to make sure that other transgender students do not have to go through the same pain and humiliation that I did," he said.

The Gloucester County School Board's meeting comes just months before a trial is set to begin over its current bathroom rules.

Grimm said the proposed policy "is far from perfect, but would represent an important first step for Gloucester." The policy "would also send the message to school districts across (Virginia) and the country that discrimination is unacceptable," he said.

Grimm has also been expanding his case against



In this March 6, 2017, file photo, Gloucester County High School senior Gavin Grimm, a transgender student, listens to a speaker during a news conference in Richmond, Va.

Associated Press

the school board. A federal judge ruled Thursday that he can sue over its refusal to change the gender on his high school transcript, which still lists him as female. Grimm said the unchanged transcript will stigmatize him every time he applies to a college or potential employer that asks for it. "I shouldn't have to be outed against my will in every situation where I would have to give that document," Grimm said during a phone interview from the San Francisco Bay Area, where he moved after graduating in 2017.

A court order legally made Grimm a man. And he is listed as male on his birth certificate, passport and a state-issued identification card in California.

The issue of Grimm's transcript highlights another concern in the transgender community that, like bathroom policies, remains far from settled across the nation.

Federal law does not directly address the issue. Some states, such as Massachusetts, provide explicit guidance to schools for updating records. Others, such as Virginia, do not provide a clear path for-

ward to schools.

"The issue is certainly rising as more students express their gender identity," said Francisco M. Negrón Jr., chief legal officer for the National School Boards Association.

"We would hope states offer clear guidance," he added. "The alternative is that students would have to make the case on their own, and school districts would not have the benefit of clarity under state law." Paul D. Castillo, an attorney for the LGBT rights group Lambda Legal, said Grimm's effort to update his transcript is "not an isolated incident."

"But it might be one of the first challenges based on federal law to update a student's legal record," Castillo said.

David Corrigan, the lead attorney for the Gloucester County School Board, declined to comment on the case or on how it could be impacted by a possible policy change. The district is located about an hour east of Richmond.

Grimm's lawsuit has followed a circuitous path that almost included a stop at the U.S. Supreme Court. The high court had sched-

uled arguments for 2017. But they were scrapped after the Trump Administration withdrew recommendations from the Obama-era to allow students to use the bathroom of their chosen gender.

As recently as December, Gloucester was still fighting the lawsuit as well as Grimm's efforts to bring his transcripts into it.

Grimm and the American Civil Liberties Union claim the policy violated his rights under the U.S. Constitution's equal protection clause and federal policies that protect against sex discrimination. They make the same argument about Grimm's transcripts.

The school board had argued that its bathroom policy did not violate Grimm's rights but protected students' privacy.

Regarding the transcripts, the board says such records are a matter of state law, which shouldn't be argued in federal court.

Plus, the board said, Grimm has ignored federal guidance on such matters. The guidance recommends holding a hearing with school officials to discuss changing "misleading" or "inaccurate" information on a record.

If the board refuses to make a change, the guidance says a person can then place a statement with the contested record that lays out his or her point of view. It's unclear if a change in the board's bathroom policy could lead to a change on Grimm's transcripts.

Since moving to California, Grimm has been studying at a community college and working as an activist and educator.

He's been able to avoid submitting his transcript to anyone so far. But that will likely change soon. He's looking for more traditional work and will eventually apply to four-year schools. "I'm still tethered to 2017 by this document," he said. "It's unfair that a high school that put me through so much is able to wield that much negative influence over my adult life." □

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In this Feb. 13, 2013 file photo, Cardinal Theodore Edgar McCarrick poses during an interview with the Associated Press, in Rome. In this Feb. 13, 2013 file photo, Cardinal Theodore Edgar McCarrick poses during an interview with the Associated Press, in Rome.

Associated Press

McCarrick's rise through church hierarchy began as altar boy

WASHINGTON (AP) — Former cardinal Theodore McCarrick's rise through the Catholic Church hierarchy, during which he established a reputation as a globe-trotting human rights advocate before being brought down by sex abuse scandals, began as an altar boy in New York City. McCarrick, who recently became the highest-ranking cleric to be defrocked by the Vatican, worked his way up over several decades to the highest circles of church leadership, despite awareness among the hierarchy of his suspect behavior, including sleeping with adult seminarians. McCarrick's past finally caught up with him last summer, when Pope Francis removed him as a cardinal after a U.S. church investigation determined that an allegation that he had fondled a teenage altar boy in the 1970s was credible. The church also acknowledged that it had made previously undisclosed financial settlements with adults who accused McCarrick of sexual misconduct decades ago. On Saturday, the Vatican announced that McCarrick, known within church circles as "Uncle Ted," had been defrocked after officials found him guilty of

soliciting sex while hearing confession and of sexual crimes against minors and adults. The move punctuated a stunning fall from grace for the 88-year-old, who was ordained as a priest in 1958, became a bishop in 1981 and was named Archbishop of Newark, New Jersey, in 1986. In November 2000, he was tapped by Pope John Paul II to lead the Archdiocese of Washington.

"I wish I were a holier man, more prayerful, more trusting in God, wiser and courageous," The New York Times quoted McCarrick as saying upon his appointment. "But here I am, with all my faults and all my needs, and we will work together." That same month, a New York priest, the Rev. Boniface Ramsay, informed the Vatican in a letter about McCarrick's misconduct with seminarians from Seton Hall University's Immaculate Conception Seminary. Ramsay, who was on the faculty at the seminary, has said he sent the letter at the request of the then-Vatican ambassador because he had heard so many complaints from students. Nevertheless, just weeks after his formal installation as archbishop, McCarrick was elevated to the rank of cardinal, shortly

after President Bill Clinton had presented him with the Eleanor Roosevelt Award for Human Rights.

The son of a ship captain who died when McCarrick was 3, the disgraced cleric attended Catholic elementary school and Fordham Preparatory School and was ordained after earning bachelor's and master's degrees at St. Joseph's Seminary in Yonkers, New York. He later earned a Ph.D. in sociology from The Catholic University of America in Washington, where he was given his first assignment as assistant chaplain and went on to serve as dean of students and director of development. McCarrick later served as president of the Catholic University of Puerto Rico, personal secretary to Cardinal Terence Cooke and auxiliary bishop of New York. From 1986 through 2006, during his years as archbishop in Newark and Washington, McCarrick was one of the most influential church leaders in the U.S. McCarrick, who speaks five languages, twice headed the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on Migration and traveled frequently overseas on trips devoted to human rights and foreign policy. □

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U.S. immigration officials detain 2 bankers wanted in Ecuador

By JENNIFER KAY

Associated Press

MIAMI BEACH, Fla. (AP) — Two brothers from Ecuador wanted in the South American country on charges that they stole millions of dollars from a now-defunct bank have been detained in Florida by U.S. immigration authorities.

William and Roberto Isaias were arrested Wednesday in Miami and detained pending deportation, Immigration and Customs Enforcement spokesman Nestor Yglesias said in an email late Saturday.

Ecuador's government has sought the brothers' extradition for years, but it was not clear what prompted their arrests. Yglesias only said the men were "unlawfully present" in the U.S.

The bank, Filanbanco, was the largest in Ecuador, and its failure in the late 1990s contributed to an economic collapse. The brothers were charged with embezzlement but fled the country before trial. They were found guilty in absentia and sentenced to eight years in prison in 2012. The brothers' deny the allegations and have been fighting for the return of businesses and assets seized by the Ecuadoran government. Their arrests were inconsistent with the U.S. government's treatment of their case thus far, the brothers' Miami-based spokesman, Freddy Balsera, told The Associated Press on Sunday. He noted that their extradition has been denied three times over the past two decades, under both Republican and Democratic administrations.

"I don't think this was targeted. We think this was just the way the current immigration policy is being applied," Balsera said, adding that the brothers' were seeking release from detention and a review of their case.

He said the brothers were grateful to the U.S. for giving them refuge from the regime of former Ecuadoran President Rafael Correa, who governed from 2007 through 2017.

Roberto Isaias, 74, was arrested at his doctor's office, while William, 75, was arrested at home, Balsera said. Both men were being held at ICE's Krome Detention Center outside Miami.

The Ecuadoran government's attorney in Miami did not respond to emails or a phone message left over the weekend. □

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In Brexit limbo, UK veers between high anxiety, grim humor

By **JILL LAWLESS**
Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — It's said that history often repeats itself — the first time as tragedy, the second as farce. Many Britons feel they are living through both at the same time as their country navigates its way out of the European Union.

The British government awarded a contract to ship in emergency supplies to a company with no ships. It pledged to replace citizens' burgundy European passports with proudly British blue ones — and gave the contract to a Franco-Dutch company. It promised to forge trade deals with 73 countries by the end of March, but two years later has only a handful in place (including one with the Faroe Islands).

Pretty much everyone in the U.K. agrees that the Conservative government's handling of Brexit has been disastrous. Unfortunately, that's about the only thing this divided nation can agree on.

With Britain due to leave the EU in six weeks and still no deal in sight on the terms of its departure, both supporters and opponents of Brexit are in a state of high anxiety.

Pro-EU "remainers" lament the looming end of Britons' right to live and work in 27 other European nations and fear the U.K. is about to crash out of the bloc without even a divorce deal to cushion the blow.

Brexiters worry that their dream of leaving the EU will be dashed by bureaucratic shenanigans that will delay its departure or keep Britain bound to EU regulations forever.

"I still think they'll find a way to curtail it or extend it into infinity," said "leave" supporter Lucy Harris. "I have a

horrible feeling that they're going to dress it up and label it as something we want, but it isn't."

litical life. The economy has stalled, growing by only 0.2 percent in the fourth quarter as business investment

drive through EU countries if Britain leaves the bloc without a deal. Of more than 11,000 who applied, only

market lettuces and French beans, oranges and lemons."

Brexit supporters often turn to nostalgic evocations of World War II and Britain's "finest hour," to the annoyance of pro-Europeans.

The imagery reached a peak of absurdity during a recent BBC news report on Brexit, when the anchor announced that "Theresa May says she intends to go back to Brussels to renegotiate her Brexit deal," as the screen cut to black-and-white footage of World War II British Spitfires going into battle.

The BBC quickly said the startling juxtaposition was a mistake: The footage was intended for an item about a new Battle of Britain museum. Skeptics saw it as evidence of the broadcaster's bias, though they disagreed on whether the BBC was biased in favor of Brexit or against it.

Some pro-Europeans have hit back against Brexit with despairing humor.

Four friends have started plastering billboards in London with 20-foot-by-10-foot (6-meter-by-3-meter) images of pro-Brexit politicians' past tweets, to expose what the group sees as their hypocrisy.

Highlights included former U.K. Independence Party leader Nigel Farage's vow that "if Brexit is a disaster, I will go and live abroad," and ex-Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson's pledge to "make a titanic success" of Brexit.

The friends dubbed the campaign "Led by Donkeys," after the description of British soldiers in World War I as "lions led by donkeys." The billboards are now going nationwide, after a crowdfunding campaign raised almost 150,000 pounds (\$193,000). □



Anti-Brexit demonstrators stand next to a van with large cartoon style portraits of leading British politicians including, from right, Prime Minister Theresa May, Boris Johnson, Michael Gove, David Davis, outside the Palace of Westminster in London, Thursday, Feb. 14, 2019.

Associated Press

It has been more than two and a half years since Britons voted 52 percent to 48 percent to leave the EU. Then came many months of tense negotiations to settle on Brexit departure terms and the outline of future relations.

At last, the EU and Prime Minister Theresa May's government struck a deal — then saw it resoundingly rejected last month by Britain's Parliament, which like the rest of the country has split into pro-Brexit and pro-EU camps.

May is now seeking changes to the Brexit deal in hope of getting it through Parliament before March 29. EU leaders say they won't renegotiate, and accuse Britain of failing to offer a way out of the impasse.

May insists she won't ask the EU to delay Britain's departure, and has refused to rule out a cliff-edge no-deal Brexit.

Meanwhile, Brexit has clogged the gears of Britain's economic and po-

registered a fourth straight quarterly decline. Big political decisions have been postponed, as May's minority Conservative government struggles to get bills through a squabbling and divided Parliament. Major legislation needed to prepare for Brexit has yet to be approved.

Britain still does not have a deal on future trade with the EU, and it's unclear what tariffs or other barriers British firms that do business with Europe will face after March 29.

That has left businesses and citizens in an agonizing limbo.

Rod McKenzie, director of policy at the Road Haulage Association, a truckers' lobby group, feels "pure anger" at a government he says has failed to plan, leaving haulers uncertain whether they will be able to travel to EU countries after March 29.

McKenzie says truckers were told they will need Europe-issued permits to

984 — less than 10 percent — have been granted the papers.

"It will put people out of business," McKenzie said. "It's been an absolutely disastrous process for our industry, which keeps Britain supplied with, essentially, everything."

He's not alone in raising the specter of shortages; both the government and British businesses have been stockpiling key goods in case of a no-deal Brexit.

Still, some Brexit-backers, such as former Daily Telegraph editor Charles Moore, relish the prospect of a clean break even if it brings short-term pain.

"Perhaps it is time for a Brexit recipe book, like those comforting wartime rationing ones full of bright ideas for dull things," Moore wrote in *The Spectator*, a conservative magazine. He added that he and his neighbors were willing to "set out in our little ships to Dunkirk or wherever and bring back luscious black-

Vote on minister's immunity puts Italian populists in bind



Activists lie on the ground as they take part in a protest against Italian Interior Minister Matteo Salvini's migrant and security decree, in Milan, Italy, Saturday, Feb. 16, 2019.

Associated Press

By **FRANCES D'EMILIO**
Associated Press

ROME (AP) — Should senators from Italy's anti-establishment 5-Star Movement strip the firebrand leader of the far-right League of his immunity from criminal prosecution, possibly jeopardizing the populist government in which the two parties are coalition partners?

The decision has them in a bind.

If they vote no, they risk alienating supporters by betraying a sacred principle of the Movement: politicians deserve no privilege beyond the ones shared by all citizens. If they vote yes, they risk worsening internal tensions already testing the 8-month-old government's viability.

So leaders of the 5-Stars, who bill the party as an internet-based democratic movement, have kicked the verdict down the line. They are asking supporters

to vote online Monday on whether to lift or maintain League leader Matteo Salvini's parliamentary immunity as a senator.

Prosecutors in Catania, Sicily, are investigating Salvini, the interior minister in the coalition government, on a possible kidnapping charge over the treatment of 177 migrants in August.

The migrants were rescued by a private aid ship and transferred to an Italian coast guard vessel. Salvini refused for five hot days to let them disembark in Sicily. The anti-migrant minister contends private rescue boats essentially help human traffickers.

The Italian Senate commission on immunity is scheduled to vote on Salvini's immunity Tuesday. Whatever the recommendation, the full Senate would have the final say next month. If charged and convicted, Salvini could face a maximum prison sentence of 14

years. Movement lawmakers sounded defensive Sunday when asked about how they were opting to put their egalitarian principle on the line - or in this case, online, too.

"This isn't synonymous with weakness" 5-Star Senate whip Stefano Patuanelli said of Monday's polling of

supporters. "This is the participatory democracy that all of us of the Movement have always wanted and hoped for."

Meanwhile, Salvini dismissed speculation that he cut a deal with 5-Star leaders: keeping his immunity in place in exchange for Salvini dropping his support for completing a high-speed

rail line in northern Italy the Movement has vowed to block.

"We're not at a fish market" haggling, Salvini told reporters.

"I'm convinced I defended the security and borders of our country," he said, adding that as far as the 5-Stars go, "Everyone votes according to conscience." □

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'Taking their last breath': IS hides among Syrian civilians

By SARAH EL DEEB
Associated Press

BAGHOUZ, Syria (AP) —

From a self-proclaimed caliphate that once spread across much of Syria and Iraq, the Islamic State group has been knocked back to a speck of land on the countries' shared border. In that tiny patch on the banks of the Euphrates River, hundreds of militants are hiding among civilians under the shadow of a small hill — encircled by forces waiting to declare the territorial defeat of the extremist group.

A spokesman for the U.S.-backed Syrian Democratic Forces fighting the militants said Sunday that the group is preventing civilians from leaving the area, closing a corridor from which nearly 40,000 residents have managed to escape since December.

"They are taking their last breath," said Dino, an SDF fighter deployed at a base near the front line in the village of Baghouz, about 2 kilometers (1¼ miles) from the militants' last spot.

An Associated Press team visited the base Sunday, escorted by the SDF, driving past mostly one-story rural houses that were destroyed, a reminder of the cost of the battle. Occasional airstrikes and artillery rounds by the U.S.-led coalition supporting the SDF, meant to clear land mines for the advance, could be seen in the distance.

The road to the base passes through a number of villages and towns from which IS were uprooted in recent weeks.

In Hajin, a major center for the militants that fell to the SDF in December, some residents have begun to return but the town remains battered by the fighting and airstrikes. Small shops



A Humvee drives in a village recently retaken from Islamic State militants by U.S.-backed Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) near Baghouz, Syria, Sunday, Feb. 17, 2019.

selling tools and construction material have sprung up.

For weeks, the militants fought desperately for their shrinking territory. Once in control of about a third of Syria and Iraq, they now are down to what SDF officials describe as a small tented village atop a network of tunnels and caves. But they are holding on to hundreds of civilians — some of them possibly hostages — taking cover among them at the edge of Baghouz, the village in eastern Deir el-Zour province.

"Regrettably, Daesh have closed all the roads," preventing civilians from leaving, said Mustafa Bali, a spokesman for the Kurdish-led SDF, referring to IS by its Arabic acronym.

The extremists may include high-level commanders, and the presence of possible captives could explain the slow final push, they added.

As civilians trickled out of the enclave in recent weeks, the SDF and co-

alition officials screened them. Women and children were transferred to camps miles away; men suspected of links to the militant group were taken into custody at other facilities.

SDF commanders said some of the hostages taken from their force have been freed in recent days. Fighters at the base said one of their colleagues was set free in the last two days. Khatib Othman, an SDF fighter, came back from the front line a few days ago to take a break. His brother, also an SDF fighter, was taken hostage by IS in the last weeks of fighting. He is now believed to be held in Iraq as a suspected militant and negotiations are underway to free him.

"We want to take revenge. We will not let the blood of our martyrs go to waste," Othman said. "We are waiting for the civilians to go out, and we will go in and attack. It is a matter of days. They are under siege, no food and no water. They are encircled from four

sides. They have to give up."

He added that the militants are running out of ammunition.

The capture of the last pocket of IS territory in either Syria or Iraq would mark the end of a four-year global campaign to crush the extremist group's so-called caliphate. It has been a long and destructive battle. In decline since 2016, the militant group was stripped of its self-declared capital of Raqqa, in Syria, in the summer of 2017, leaving behind a destroyed city whose residents are still struggling to return.

In Deir el-Zour, the SDF and the coalition have battled to uproot the militants from villages and towns on the eastern banks of the Euphrates since September. Battle-hardened militants, including some of the group's leading fighters and foreign commanders, had taken refuge in the area between Syria and Iraq. They fought back, dispatching suicide bombers

from underground tunnels, deploying female fighters and launching counteroffensives that reclaimed many of the villages for weeks. Nearly 700 SDF fighters were killed in fighting that left at least 1,300 militants and over 400 civilians dead, according to the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights.

"We will very soon bring good news to the whole world," Ciya Furat, an SDF commander, said Saturday at a news conference at the al-Omar Oil Field Base, miles from Baghouz.

But experts and U.S. defense officials warn that IS still poses a major threat and could regroup within six months if pressure is not kept up.

Thousands of IS fighters and their families have emerged in the past few months from the group's last enclave. The SDF is holding 900 foreign fighters in lockups and camps in northern Syria, and their fate is a major concern, particularly as U.S. troops prepare to withdraw from Syria. In a tweet Sunday, U.S. President Donald Trump called on Britain, France and Germany and other European countries to take back their militants and put them on trial at home.

"The Caliphate is ready to fall," Trump said. He suggested the alternative would be that the U.S. would be forced to release them.

"We do so much, and spend so much - Time for others to step up and do the job that they are so capable of doing. We are pulling back after 100% Caliphate victory!" he added. The Kurdish forces and officials have said the same in recent weeks, appealing to countries to take back their militants. □



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In Nigeria's tight election, Christian vote is seen as key

By RODNEY MUHUMUZA

Associated Press

YOLA, Nigeria (AP) — Ask worshippers at St. Charles Catholic Church what they want most from Nigeria's presidential election, and the answer is peace.

"We don't want any more bloodshed in Nigeria," said Everistus Suburu, vice chairman of the church in the northern state of Kano. "We are tired of (Islamic extremist group) Boko Haram."

The presidential campaign has been largely free of the religious pressures that marked the 2015 vote when Muhammadu Buhari, a Muslim northerner, defeated a Christian president from the south who had grown unpopular over his failure to control Boko Haram.

Now, with the leading candidates both northern Muslims, the Christian vote may be decisive in sweeping the incumbent from power for the second time in as many elections in Africa's most populous country.

Nigeria's 190 million people are divided almost equally between Christians mainly in the south and Muslims, like Buhari and his opponent Atiku Abubakar, who dominate in the north.

Across northern Nigeria, where street scenes are rich with Islamic customs and mosques, people of different faiths have co-existed over the decades, even joining forces in re-



Nigerian women take communion at St Charles Catholic Church, during a mass in Ngure , Nigeria, Sunday, Feb. 17, 2019.

cent years to fight Boko Haram, which opposes a secular Nigeria.

Yet religious tensions remain even in an election that offers no clear sectarian choice, underscoring the pervasive influence of faith in Nigerian politics. It's not certain which of the top two candidates Christian voters will support, or if they will vote as a bloc.

In a bit of last-minute drama, the electoral commission decided early Saturday, just hours before polls were to open, to postpone the election until Feb. 23. The commission's chairman, Mahmood Yakubu, cited "very trying circumstances" in logistics for the

balloting, including bad weather affecting flights and fires at three commission offices in an apparent attempt "to sabotage our preparations."

The delay has deepened the sense of mistrust and frustration some northern Christians feel toward Buhari's government.

"The major problem we have in this country is that our leaders don't have the fear of God," said Murna Samuel, a schoolteacher in Yola, capital of the northern state of Adamawa, complaining about the postponement. "We are in a mess. It's like they don't want to do this election."

Over the years, in an infor-

mal system known as zoning, Nigeria's presidency has tended to rotate: A Muslim from the north is succeeded by a Christian from the south. This is widely seen as key to holding the country together.

The incumbent Buhari, a Muslim, took over from Goodluck Jonathan, a Christian. Now Buhari is

seeking a second term, and his chief opponent is Muslim. The rotation to a Christian could come after a second term for Buhari.

Both Buhari and Abubakar have Christian running mates, in keeping with tradition. Without legal backing, however, the rotational system essentially relies on the goodwill of the politicians of the day.

"I am concerned," said the Rev. Maurice Kwairanga of the Catholic Secretariat in Yola. "If the Muslims are given a platform where there are no checks and balances, they want to turn the whole country to Islam. If you want to build a chapel, the process you have to go through is very difficult. And even if you complete the process you may not get the chapel."

Abubakar is expected to perform well among Christian voters in some central states, such as Plateau and Kaduna, where the problem of marauding herders is severe, said Sylvester Akhaine, professor of political science at Lagos State University. □

Fire in slum kills 9 in southeastern Bangladesh

Associated Press

DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP) — A devastating blaze raced through a crammed slum in southeastern Bangladesh on Sunday, killing at least nine people and injuring several others, a fire official said.

The fire broke out early in the morning in the Chaktai area of Chittagong city while the slum dwellers were asleep, said the

official, Jasim Uddin. At least 200 shanty homes were gutted before firefighters brought the blaze under control, Uddin said, adding that four of the dead were from a single family. He said the cause of the fire was not yet known and that an investigation was ordered.

Chittagong is 216 kilometers (134 miles) southeast of the capital, Dhaka. □

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Mexico: Makeshift migrant shelter near border to close soon

By JUAN ANTONIO GUZMAN CALDERON
Associated Press
PIEDRAS NEGRAS, Mexico (AP) — An improvised shelter where hundreds of Central American migrants have been confined in the border city of Piedras Negras, across from Eagle Pass, Texas, will close next week, authorities said Saturday.

Coahuila State Public Safety Secretary Jose Luis Pliego said the shelter in an abandoned factory has served its purpose, which was to provide attention to the migrants and process their migratory status.

It is expected to close Wednesday, and authorities have begun taking some migrants to neighboring states such as Nuevo Leon and Tamaulipas to be incorporated into the workforce while others may seek other options to try to cross into the United States.



Honduran Delia Romero, 24, sits with her children in their sleeping area at a sheltered in Piedras Negras, Mexico, Tuesday, Feb. 5, 2019.

Associated Press

Pliego said about 1,500 now have papers that let them move freely in Mexico. Some 400 have already been taken to other states, and about 70 were deported to their home countries for purportedly disturbing the peace.

"Given the conditions we have right now, the advances in registrations, the advances in providing documents" and the fact that many who were ill when they arrived have been or are being treated, Pliego said, "the purpose of the shelter has practically concluded."

Soldiers in camouflage and body armor formed a perimeter outside the facility on Saturday, resting

casually on riot shields, as migrants milled about on the other side of the yellow chain-link fence.

A helicopter buzzed overhead, some boarded buses to be transported elsewhere.

On Wednesday police and migrants scuffled briefly at the building, which was ringed by officers and soldiers, because they were not being allowed outside. Video of the images showed some migrants tearing down a temporary awning and trying to wrestle metal barricades from police.

Some migrants still at the shelter said they were not being allowed to come and go despite holding the permits, and they hope to leave as soon as possible for fear of possible deportation.

"I don't feel safe here," said Donald, a Honduran migrant who declined to

give his last name for fear of possible reprisals in Mexico or back home. He added that officials had torn up the credentials of some people and that was the cause of the Wednesday's disturbance.

A field officer with the Texas-based refugee advocacy group Raices has spoken of "prison"-like conditions inside.

The migrants have wanted to appear at the U.S. border to apply for asylum, but only about a dozen per day have been allowed to do so.

Pliego said he was aware of another possible migrant caravan from Honduras, but it was not clear where it would head once in Mexico.

Some previous caravans have made for the border city of Tijuana, where there is a long waiting list for asylum seekers to be allowed to present their case. □

Marco Rubio warns Venezuelan soldiers to let aid enter

Associated Press
CUCUTA, Colombia (AP) — U.S. Sen. Marco Rubio on Sunday visited a border staging point for U.S. aid to Venezuela and warned soldiers loyal to socialist President Nicolas Maduro that would commit a "crime against humanity" if they block entry of the packages that are being channeled through Maduro's rivals.

An enthusiastic throng of Venezuelan migrants, some chanting "Rubio! Liberty!" met the Florida Republican



A Venezuelan man carrying a pack of eggs also clutches a flyer, given to him by Venezuelan politicians in exile, inviting people to come out to the streets on Feb. 23 to support a planned aid delivery to Venezuela, in La Parada, on the border with Venezuela, Colombia, Sunday, Feb. 17, 2019.

Associated Press

as he visited Cucuta and held a news conference in sight of a border bridge that has been flooded in recent months by Venezuelans people fleeing hardship in their own country.

The U.S. has used military and civilian aircraft to fly in food and personal care aid — an effort that is meant to undermine Maduro and dramatize his government's inability to overcome shortages of food and medicine. The aid is supposed to be distributed in Venezuela on Feb. 23 by supporters of

congressional leader Juan Guaido, who is recognized the U.S. and dozens of other countries as Venezuela's legitimate president.

Maduro is using troops to block aid from entering, saying it's unnecessary and part of coup to overthrow him. Rubio warned those soldiers that blocking aid would be an international "crime against humanity."

He said in Spanish that soldiers who block aid from entering would spend "the rest of their lives hiding from justice." □

LOCAL



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Marinelda Cartaya, Sales Manager, elaborates on the construction phase of this unique project. "We started about a year ago with the construction and we are super happy to say that we are on schedule. All the divisions of the different condominiums are done, so you can actually see the interior space in each unit." Besides the divisions the floor tiles of the condominiums are being laid as well. "By just looking at the materials you can really imagine how the end result will be. We can also show a model of the kitchens we use. You get the perfect picture", Marinelda continues. The 7th floor is where the gym with amazing ocean views will rise and on the other end the only and mind-blowing 5-BR Pent House is under construction. The roofs are currently being installed on this floor and floor 6 while the deep foundations for the pool level have been completed. "That was a huge job as the foundations required piling 26 feet deep and there is only one machine for this type of job in the region. We had to bring it in to execute this work. Well, we really want the wow factor of the infinity pool overlooking the harbor, so we needed to do whatever it takes", she laughs.

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The construction is going according to plans meaning that the new downtown living that Harbour House offers will be ready in the first quarter of 2020. "We have already sold all studios, there are some 2-bedroom condominiums left and we have 3-bedroom condos available. Of the latter we offer also corner units that provide you with an awesome 90-degree panorama over the city and ocean." Waking up with a view like that will start your day with positive vibes. Imagine yourself sipping your coffee gazing over the awakening city and the Caribbean ocean. The best of both worlds.



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Harbour Buzz

The ground floor will be a lively area attractive to both locals and visitors. There will be a pedestrian boulevard flanked by nice restaurants, good stores, ateliers for local artists, jewelry sellers and of course a minimarket. "Imagine that all is right at your doorstep and if that is not enough the marina with its restaurants, cinema, city center with its stores and dining locations and the only convention center in Aruba are all within walking distance. The best beaches are just minutes away", says Marinelda. "We are open to businesses that would like to rent a space for their restaurant or store as well as local artists that are looking for a gallery space. Please contact us."

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Aruba Fishing Report for February



Slowly but surely, Aruba is becoming one of the premier fisheries in the Caribbean. This place is blessed with delightfully warm weather and a uniquely favorable geography for big game fishing. February, in particular, is a

special time for fishing in Aruba. Offshore, on the reefs, or on the flats, there's something on the bite no matter where you cast your line.

February gives you a great chance of completing the coveted Billfish

Grand Slam (catching White Marlin, Blue Marlin, and Sailfish in the same day). The fishing grounds are just off the north shore of the island, so you'll be wrestling these monsters in no time. Fighting these billfish can take time, though, so

make sure to book at least a 6-hour outing. If that sounds a little too hardcore, the reefs will have plenty of excitement to offer.

Fishing for Wahoo and Barracuda is widely recognized as an Aruban staple. Just ask Captain Michael aboard Kristel Fishing. A few days ago, his party caught five Wahoo and a Barracuda on just a four hour trip! Mahi and King Mackerel are also on the bite this month, so you'll pretty much have your hands full.

With an abundance of Snook and Rainbow Runner, fly fishing in Aruba is good year round. However, if you had your sights on Permit, you'll be happy to know that it's still present on the flats in good numbers this month.

This is one of the best months of the year to fish in Aruba. There's a variety of species on the bite, and a wide range of beautiful fishing spots to explore.

So, what are you waiting for? ☐

Oranjestad, Aruba named as one of America's Most Popular Foreign Fishing Spots

ORANJESTAD — FishingBooker, the world's largest website for booking fishing charters, announced the top 10 foreign fishing spots that Americans visit, and Oranjestad is one of them. The list was created based on data from bookings where it was recorded which spots outside the US Americans most frequently visit in order to go fishing.

It's no secret that Aruba is a small piece of heaven on earth. Oranjestad is well known for its white beaches, Dutch architecture, and incredible food. But did you know that the town offers some incredible fishing opportunities? Anglers will have the chance to catch Bonefish, Snook, and baby Tarpon, Mahi Mahi, Wahoo, Yellowfin Tuna, and Blue and White Marlin! That's why Oranjestad was one of the most visited foreign fishing spots by American tourists in the past year.

The full list of America's 10 most popular foreign fishing destinations can be found below:

10. Bridgetown, Barbados
9. San Juan, Puerto Rico
8. Oranjestad, Aruba
7. George Town, Cayman Islands
6. Nassau, Bahamas
5. Punta Cana, Dominican Republic
4. Puerto Vallarta, Mexico
3. Jaco, Costa Rica
2. Cancun, Mexico
1. Cabo San Lucas, Mexico

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The Aruba Tourism Authority honor loyal visitors on the island

EAGLE BEACH — Recently, Marouska Heyliger of the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure to honor Aruba's loyal and friendly visitors as Distinguished Visitor and Goodwill Ambassador. The Distinguished visitor certificate is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism, as a token of appreciation to the guests who visit Aruba 10 years and more consecutively. The Goodwill Ambassador certificate is presented to guests who visit Aruba 20 years and more consecutively.

The honorees were Mitch and Roseann Snyder from Rhode Island and Michael and Maria Santucci from New Jersey

They all stated that they love the island very much, especially for the weather, the beaches and Aruba's warm and friendly people.

Ms. Heyliger together with the representatives of the La Cabana Beach Resort presented the certificate to the honorees, and also handed over some presents and thanked them for choosing Aruba as their favorite vacation destination and as their home away from home. □





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Play Your Way to the Party



EAGLE BEACH - Lots of fun combined with admiration for creativity. Those are some of the ingredients of the signature event of Kiwanis Club of Aruba. Everybody wants to see and be seen at the Kiwanis Annual Masquerade Party that takes place March 1st at the Renaissance Convention Center.

Now Eagle Aruba Casino gives you the opportunity to play your way to the party, whether you can't get enough of the fun and excitement it takes to win or you simply love the entertainment and all its exciting moments, this is the promotion for you.

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The Goldmine Ranch goes Hall of Fame



ORANJESTAD — We have an important news to share today. This year once more we were recognized by Tripadvisor with the Certificate of Excellence for the year 2018. What makes this year even more special is the addition to the Hall of Fame. After receiving the Certificate of Excellence for 7 consecutive years, we are now in the

Hall of Fame as well.

Our emotions are high and our hearts filled with gratitude. First of all, we would like to thank everyone who took the time to write a review. Thank you for choosing us and giving us the opportunity to provide a wonderful and memorable vacation experience! As we

always say: "let us be the highlight of your vacation". This is what we continuously strive for. To all our loyal repeat guests who continue to visit us year after year, we love you all!

Secondly, we would like to thank Tripadvisor for providing an important platform that brings us closer

to guests all over the world. Without this platform it would be difficult to learn about your experiences. And also for others to learn about everything that Aruba has to offer. Thank you for putting us out there. Also, as a local and family run stable we depend highly on direct bookings. We compete against larger chains, corporations, boycotts from hotels, and a large number of activity providers. But against all odds, we are still here.

Off course none of this would not be possible without our team. We have a team of hard working and passionate guides who understand the importance of customer service and place love for nature and animals above everything else. Aside from a stable we are also an animal rescue sanctuary for many years now. And we will continue to work to provide shelter to animals in need.

Thank you everyone for the support.

Aruban born and bred Steve Francees has a passion for photography. Being a local photographer he knows the hidden gems of this island and captures them in an amazing way. As a Family and Landscape photographer Steve is ready to create your next 'vacation memories', morning and/or sunset shots. T: (297) 738-0777, M: stevefrancees@hotmail.com, www.instagram.com/stevefrancees and www.stevefrancees.com



Aruba's ambassador Winnie turned 80 last week



Winnie and Skip Speed have been coming to Aruba since they discovered our island in 1499 and that's not a joke ha ha. We all wish Winnie a pleasant stay on the island and Aruba is truly her second home surrounded by so many friends and family. Masha pabien Winnie, cu hopi amor.

The Aruban Iguana



It's almost impossible to come to Aruba without seeing this amazing reptile. The iguana is a herbivore and can grow till 1.5 meter from head to tail. It is native to Central, South America and the Caribbean. The iguana can also change colors to camouflage in its surroundings. The baby iguana has neon green color and it's a very cute reptile.

Mangel Halto



This is one of my favorite beaches on the island and a must visit when in Aruba. There are many things that make this beach special. Mangel Halto has a nice sandy beach that will have a pinky color around 12:30pm. Lots of the evergreen mangroves, a dock where you can dive into the sea. Also one of the only places where can snorkel and see live conch shells at the bottom of the sea. The only beach where you can see 8 tonality of blue and you must see it for yourself. If you love photography just like I do, this is the place to be!!!

Family Silhouette at sunset



Don't leave Aruba without this picture your in gallery and sure it's the most iconic photo you can have of your vacation here in Aruba. To take this shot you must wait for the exact position of the sun and ask anybody on the beach to take this shot. For the best angle, the one that is taken the photo or the photographer must go below eye level as much as possible to get the right composition. This is a photo I took of a family from Peru who were vacationing here in Aruba last week.

SPORTS



Austria's Marcel Hirscher celebrates in the finish area after winning the men's slalom, at the alpine ski World Championships in Are, Sweden, Sunday, Feb. 17, 2019.

Associated Press

Hirscher skis to Austria's rescue with slalom gold at worlds

By STEVE DOUGLAS
AP Sports Writer

ARE, Sweden (AP) — A proud and storied Alpine skiing nation, Austria headed into the final event of the world championships in danger of finishing without a gold medal for the first time in a generation.

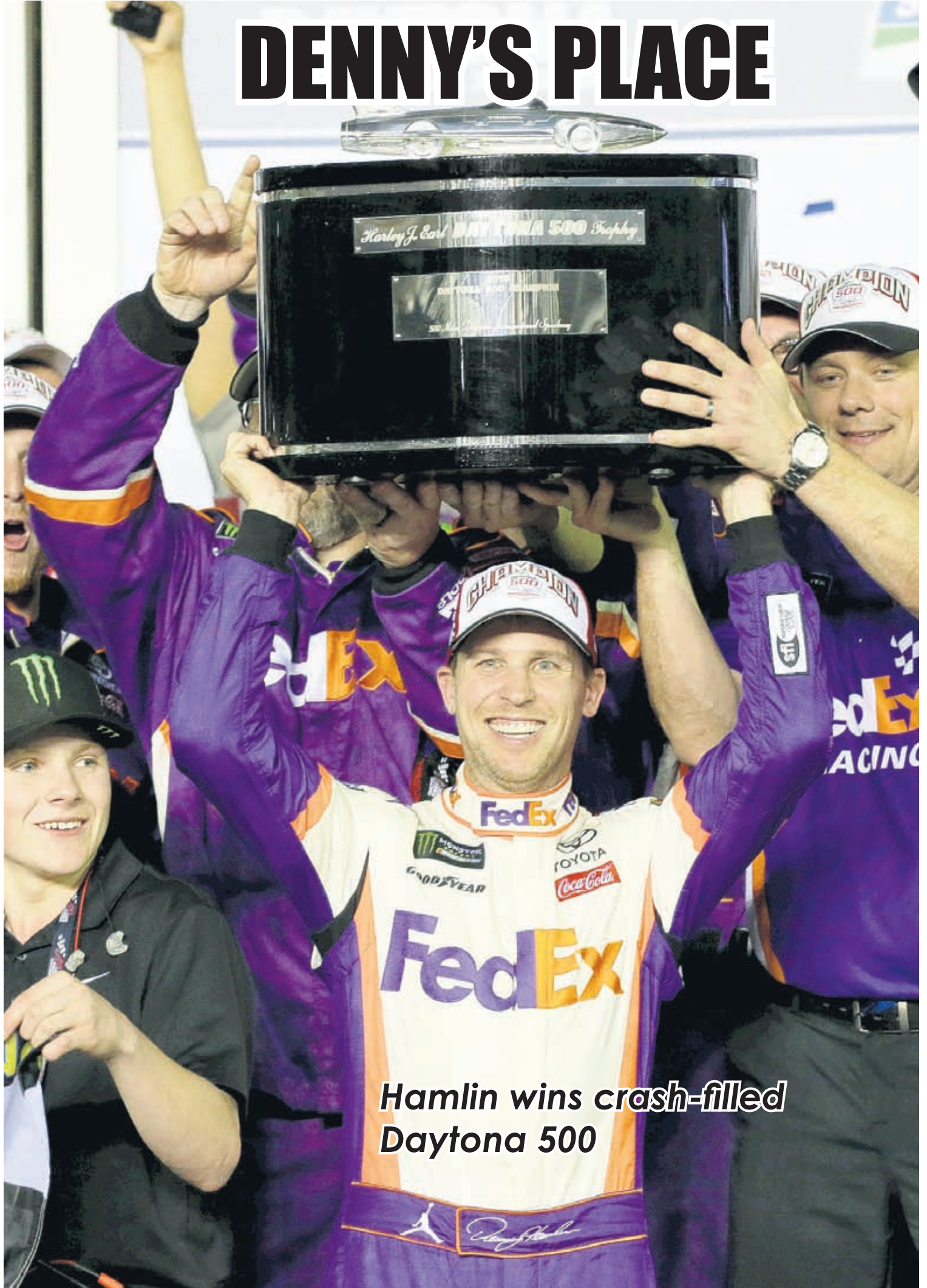
Trust Marcel Hirscher to deliver when it matters the most. In perhaps his last race at the worlds, Hirscher produced one of the best runs of his decorated career to set up a big lead in the slalom, then coasted to victory and a record-tying seventh career gold medal at the event.

As has become usual for Hirscher after a major championship, he suggested retirement could be close — even as soon as the end of this season.

If this was the last performance on the big stage, he sure put on a show.

Continued on Page 23

DENNY'S PLACE



*Hamlin wins crash-filled
Daytona 500*

Denny Hamlin celebrates with the Championship trophy in Victory Lane after winning the NASCAR Daytona 500 auto race at Daytona International Speedway, Sunday, Feb. 17, 2019, in Daytona Beach, Fla.

Associated Press
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J.B. Holmes rallies to win a marathon finish at Riviera



J.B. Holmes poses with his trophy on the 18th green after winning the Genesis Open golf tournament at Riviera Country Club on Sunday, Feb. 17, 2019, in the Pacific Palisades area of Los Angeles.

By DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — J.B.

Holmes rallied from a four-shot deficit in the final round and won a marathon finish Sunday in the Genesis Open for his first victory in three years and a trip back to the Masters.

Holmes closed with a 1-under 70, and that was enough to overcome Justin Thomas, who took 19 putts on the back nine at Riviera — three of them from 8 feet when he lost the lead for good — and shot 75.

"I knew it was going to be very difficult to shoot a low score," Holmes said. "I needed some help from Justin."

They played 34 holes because of a seven-hour rain delay at the start of the tournament Thursday, and that wasn't even the worst of it. The final day featured a wild shift in weather, from sunshine in the morning to complete 16 holes of the third round, brief rain when they teed off in the final round and wicked wind

that made it tough to hole putts. There were three two-shot swings on the back nine, all because of putting.

The biggest moment was on the 13th hole, when Holmes was one shot behind and made a 12-footer for par. Thomas, who had lagged his birdie putt from 65 feet to 8 feet from the cup, three-putted from there for a double bogey to fall one shot behind.

He three-putted the next hole to fall back further, made an 8-foot birdie on the 16th to get with one but couldn't catch up.

Holmes had his problems, too. Right when he took the lead for the first time — a birdie on the par-4 10th and a three-putt bogey from long range by Thomas — Holmes turned birdie into a shocking bogey when he three-putted from 3 feet.

Thomas, who looked sharp as ever in the morning in his round of 65 to build a big lead, missed a 6-foot birdie putt that would have tied for the lead at the par-5

17th after Holmes three-putted for par from 30 feet. He had one last chance to force a playoff, but his 20-foot birdie putt broke off to the right.

"I struggled putting in the wind out there," Thomas said. "Unfortunately, it showed a flaw in my game. It was obviously very difficult. J.B. won. He played great. It's always a bummer to hand a tournament. I feel like I should have won that thing."

Tiger Woods shot 65 to finish his morning third round, though he was never in range of winning. Woods closed with a 72 in the afternoon, and tied for 15th. "I got tired," Woods said. "I don't know if I'm the only

one, but I definitely felt it today. Wind, cold. I was at 10 (under) and I slipped four shots coming in. That's the way it goes."

He said he wouldn't touch his clubs on Monday as he goes from cold air at sea level to Mexico City next week. Holmes and Thomas weren't the only ones who struggled on greens that became increasingly bumpy from so much golf, and wind. Adam Scott was right in the hunt until he missed six consecutive putts from under 10 feet that dropped him out of contention quickly.

Holmes finished at 14-under 270 for his first PGA Tour victory since the 2015 Houston Open, where he rallied

from six shots behind.

Si Woo Kim had a 66, the low score of the final round, and finished third. Rory McIlroy almost got back in the game when he holed a bunker shot on the 16th to get within two shots, but he failed to birdie the par-5 17th and was fooled by the wind in making bogey on the final hole for a 69. He tied for fourth with Marc Leishman (68).

No one had a tougher time than Jordan Spieth, whose final round included a birdie, par, bogey, double bogey, triple bogey and quadruple bogey, the latter on the 10th hole when he hit four shots out of bunkers. He shot 81, his second-highest score as a pro. □

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Denny Hamlin cruises to 2nd Daytona 500 victory in 4 years

By JENNA FRYER

AP Auto Racing Writer

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. (AP)

— Denny Hamlin came to the Daytona 500 determined to honor his late car owner with a victory.

He delivered with a storybook tribute for Joe Gibbs Racing.

Hamlin won NASCAR's biggest race for the second time in four years Sunday, leading JGR in a 1-2-3 sweep of the podium in overtime. The race and the season have been dedicated to J.D. Gibbs, Joe Gibbs' eldest son who died last month after battling a degenerative neurological disease.

J.D. Gibbs helped his father start the race team, ran it while Joe Gibbs was coaching the Washington Redskins, was a tire changer on the team's first Daytona 500 victory and the one who discovered Hamlin during a test session at Hickory Motor Speedway in North Carolina. Hamlin was hired to drive the No. 11 — the number J.D. Gibbs used when he played football — and J.D. Gibbs' name is on the Toyota.

When Hamlin stopped his car along the frontstretch to collect the checkered flag, he immediately credited J.D. Gibbs.

"The whole family, they did so much for me over the course of my career, and this one is for J.D.," Hamlin said. "We are desperately going to miss him the rest of our lives. His legacy still lives on through Joe Gibbs Racing and proud to do this for them."

Hamlin was met in victory lane by the entire Gibbs family, including J.D.'s widow and four sons.

"He meant a lot to me and it's hard for me not getting choked up because I've been choked up about 100 times about it," Hamlin said. "Just to have Melissa (Gibbs) and all the kids here, it's just crazy."

Joe Gibbs, the Hall of Fame NFL coach with three Super Bowl victories, ranked the tribute win to his son first in his career accomplishments.

"It is the most emotional

and biggest win I've ever had in my life, in anything," Gibbs said. "It was the most important night in my oc-

Busch said. "There wasn't enough cars out there running at the end. I don't know how it would have

cautions and five wrecks in the final 20 laps of regulation. The race was stopped twice for cleanup totaling

two, three, it just says he's up there watching and maybe gave (those) guys a little extra boost there at the end."

Michael McDowell was fifth in a Ford but aggravated Logano by not working with him in the two-lap overtime sprint to the finish.

"I just told him that my team doesn't pay me to push Joey Logano to a win," McDowell said.

Ty Dillon was sixth in the highest-finishing Chevrolet. The race featured eight drivers making their Daytona 500 debuts and rookie Ryan Preece, a short track racer from New England, was best in class with an eighth-place finish.

Ross Chastain, the eighth-generation watermelon farmer who lost his main ride for this year when the FBI raided his sponsor right before Christmas, finished 10th,

Jamie McMurray, the 2010 winner, led six laps and was in the mix until he was collected in one of the late accidents. He finished 22nd in his final race before retirement.

William Byron and Alex Bowman were the youngest front row in race history but had little to show for it after the race. Bowman finished 11th and Byron, the pole-sitter, was 21st.

Hamlin last year suffered through his first winless season in the Cup Series and made a crew chief change during the offseason. When he won the 500 in 2016 it was his debut race with crew chief Mike Wheeler, and this victory came in his first race with Chris Gabehart.

Hamlin's first Daytona 500 victory was in a photo finish against Martin Truex Jr. and the celebration was a blur. This one, he said, he will enjoy. "I think I was so dumbfounded about everything that happened the first time with the photo finish and everything," Hamlin said.

"This one lets me soak it in a little bit more. I'm going to have a terrible hangover tomorrow, but I'm going to enjoy it the rest of my life." □



Denny Hamlin, center front, poses for a photo with his crew members after winning the NASCAR Daytona 500 auto race at Daytona International Speedway, Sunday, Feb. 17, 2019, in Daytona Beach, Fla.

Associated Press

cupational life. I know J.D. and everybody in my family was emotional."

Kyle Busch and Erik Jones finished second and third as JGR became the second team in NASCAR history to sweep the Daytona 500 podium. Hendrick Motorsports did it in 1997 with Jeff Gordon, Terry Labonte and Ricky Craven.

Busch, now winless in 14 Daytona 500s, was initially openly disappointed in falling short.

"He's got two, I've got none, and that's just the way it goes sometimes," Busch said.

But he reiterated the JGR and Toyota goal of working together to win the race and noted he didn't have much of a shot at beating Hamlin because the field had been decimated by a flurry of late accidents.

"Was trying to make sure one of us gets to victory lane, first and foremost,"

played out."

The Cup Series slogged through three uninspiring exhibition races during Speedweeks to cause concern over a potentially disappointing main event. Jim France, who took over as chairman of NASCAR last August, used the pre-race driver meeting to ask the drivers to liven up the activity. Hamlin and Chase Elliott were the rare drivers to use the bottom lane in the exhibition races while the rest of the field ran single-file along the top.

"I hope a few of you drivers out there will get down on the bottom with Denny and Chase and put on a good show today," France told the field.

The drivers obeyed and delivered an action-packed and wreck-filled running of "The Great American Race."

There was an accident on pit road, a 21-car crash, 12

nearly 40 minutes in the final stretch. During the second red-flag, one of NASCAR's track-drying trucks broke down while cleaning oil off the racing surface. Hamlin and Busch alternated as the leaders during the handful of late restarts, and the final rush to the checkered flag was a push to hold off Ford driver and reigning NASCAR champion Joey Logano. The Ford camp went 1-2-3 in both of Thursday's qualifying races and was favored to win the Daytona 500.

Logano, who started his career at JGR, settled for fourth and also took a moment to honor J.D. Gibbs. "I'm not a Gibbs driver but for what J.D. has done for my career is the reason why I'm sitting here today," Logano said.

"As bad as I want to win it, it is pretty cool to think that the first race after his passing, to see those guys one,



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Malkin, Letang each score twice, Penguins beat Rangers 6-5

PITTSBURGH (AP)—The Pittsburgh Penguins survived a four-minute penalty kill and went on the hunt against the New York Rangers.

Kris Letang scored his second of the game and Evgeni Malkin scored twice in a span of six minutes, helping the Penguins beat the Rangers 6-5 on Sunday.

Defensemen Marcus Pettersson and Brian Dumoulin also scored for the Penguins (31-21-7), who leapfrogged the Carolina Hurricanes for the second Eastern Conference wild-card spot.

"At the beginning of the third, getting that kill, it gave us such a boost," Letang said. "And then we got a bunch of goals."

Forty-nine seconds after Sidney Crosby's high-sticking double minor expired, Letang took a feed from Crosby and beat goalie Alexandar Georgiev to give the Penguins the lead for good with 15:24 left.

Malkin then scored twice in a span of 2:31 to give him four goals in two games since serving a one-game suspension for a stick-swinging incident.

"He tends to be a guy who builds confidence when he

scores, and so I think that bodes well for us and for him," Penguins coach Mike Sullivan said. "He's an elite player ... and you could see it in the third period tonight, the kind of impact he can have." Mats Zuccarello had two goals, and Kevin Hayes and Mika Zibanejad scored over the game's final 5:46 for the Rangers, who couldn't complete a second rally after erasing a 3-1 deficit to tie it late in the second period.

Not taking the lead during the four-minute power play that spanned the second intermission was crucial to the game's outcome.

"We got demoralized," Rangers coach David Quinn said, "and they got a new set of energy and a new lift and the whole complexion of the game changed."

Crosby had three assists to give him 11 points in his past five games for the Penguins, who had won just seven of their previous 17 games to fall in danger of missing the postseason for the first time since 2005-06.

Malkin has points in seven consecutive games that he has played over the



Pittsburgh Penguins' Evgeni Malkin (71) is upended by New York Rangers' Adam McQuaid (54) during the first period of an NHL hockey game in Pittsburgh, Sunday, Feb. 17, 2019.

Associated Press

past month, interrupted by missing five games with an upper-body injury and the one game because of suspension.

Letang opened the scoring 16:11 into the game. He has 15 goals, one off his career high set in 2015-16.

It was the first time all season the Penguins got four goals from defensemen.

"The last couple games we have been really active getting chances," Dumoulin said.

Zuccarello's goals were his 10th and 11th, each tying the game.

Ryan Strome also scored for New York, which had won three of its previous five.

The Rangers have scored 11 goals over a two-game span for the first time this season after winning 6-2 at Buffalo on Friday.

Zibanejad added an assist and Chris Kreider had two assists, giving the Rangers' top-line trio of those two and Zuccarello 58 points in

their past 14 games.

"Except for those five or six minutes there in the third, I think we played a good game," Zuccarello said. "Obviously, it's a good team over there.

They have good forwards. They're going to get some chances, but I think we created a bunch of good chances.

"It could've gone either way. It's hard when they score three right away — boom, boom, boom." □

Surging Flyers beat Red Wings 3-1 for 12th win in 14 games

By LARRY LAGE
AP Hockey Writer

DETROIT (AP)—Ivan Provorov scored a tiebreaking goal early in the third period and Oskar Lindblom had two goals, lifting the surging Philadelphia Flyers to a 3-1 win over the Detroit Red Wings on Sunday night.

The Flyers have won 12 of their last 14 games, moving into contention for a wild card in the Eastern Conference playoffs or perhaps for one of the three guaranteed postseason spots available in the Metropolitan Division.

Lindblom scored early in the game and had an empty-net goal with 1:26 left. Rookie Carter Hart finished with 37 saves.

Darren Helm tied the game early in the second period and on a night the Red Wings failed to score despite a lot of shots.

Jonathan Bernier started and stopped 10 shots in the first period for the Red Wings before leaving the game with an upper-body injury. He was replaced by Jimmy Howard.

The Red Wings have lost five of seven, moving closer to being eliminated from postseason race for a third straight year.

NOTES: Flyers D Philippe Myers made his NHL debut. ... Red Wings C Frans Nielsen returned to the lineup after being out for one game with a stomach virus. ... Since Jan. 14, Carter has won 10 of 11 games. □



Oklahoma City Thunder Hamidou Diallo leaps over former NBA player Shaquille O'Neal during the NBA All-Star Slam Dunk contest, Saturday, Feb. 16, 2019, in Charlotte, N.C. Diallo won the contest.

Associated Press

Canadian women beat U.S. 2-0 to win inaugural Rivalry Series

By **LARRY LAGE**
AP Hockey Writer

DETROIT (AP) — The inaugural Rivalry Series was created to give Canada and the United States another opportunity to put the world's best female hockey teams on the ice together.

It went so well, there likely will be a sequel.

Brianne Jenner and Blayre Turnbull scored, Shannon Szabados made 38 saves, and the Canadians beat the Americans 2-0 in front of 9,048 fans Sunday to win the three-game series.

"It always means a lot when you play these guys and there's no love lost on the ice, so to get a win in their barn felt pretty good," Jenner said.

Gina Kingsbury, director of women's national teams for Hockey Canada, declared the event was a success in every way.

"We would love to see this repeat itself every year for sure," Kingsbury said. "It would help generate excitement about our game outside of Olympic years."

The Canadians beat their rivals nearly a year after the U.S. won Olympic gold in a shootout thriller and a few months after it won the Four Nations Cup against them.

They will meet again in April at the world championship in Finland.

"That's the hardest part," Alex Rigsby said after making 15 saves for the Americans. "You come off a loss and now we have to wait another six, seven weeks until we play each other again."

The top U.S. and Canadian teams have not played regularly outside of the Olympics, world championship and Four Nations Cup, but that will change if the Rivalry Series becomes an annual event.

"It fits really well with our program," USA Hockey executive director Pat Kelleher said. "And, it's good for us to have the NHL involved as well." □



Toronto Blue Jays pitcher Marcus Stroman (6) looks on during baseball spring training in Dunedin, Fla., Sunday, Feb. 17, 2019.

Associated Press

Blue Jays' Stroman disheartened by unsigned veteran players

By **MARK DITLER**
Associated Press

DUNEDIN, Fla. (AP) — Marcus Stroman says it is "pretty disheartening" that veteran players like Adam Jones remain unsigned as full-squad spring training workouts are set to begin. "I'm someone who can speak on how much I have learned from these individuals, and I know how important they are to the game of baseball," the Toronto Blue Jays right-hander said Sunday. "So to see these guys sitting at home and not have jobs, that's absolute crazy."

Stroman, 27, will have a veteran role this season as the Blue Jays have undertaken a youth movement. "I think it's a little weird to come into the clubhouse, me having Jose Bautista's original locker when he used to be the veteran," Stroman said.

Beyond the unsigned star duo of Manny Machado and Bryce Harper, baseball's free-agency pool still has a surprising number of big names in it: closer Craig Kimbrel, left-hander Dallas Keuchel, outfielder Carlos Gomez and infielder Josh Harrison included.

Stroman also pointed out

that others, including Melky Cabrera and Curtis Granderson, have only been able to find minor league deals. "The young wave of guys are extremely talented, but they need to be mentored," Stroman said. "So I think it's a premium that we start getting some of these guys that don't have jobs, they need to have jobs. They should have jobs. They should be in clubhouses. It's ridiculous that they're not." During his formative major league years, Stroman turned to players like Cabrera, Bautista, Mark Buehrle and Josh Donaldson for guidance. When asked if the Blue Jays front office has done everything it can to put the best team on the field, Stroman replied "we're going to see."

"Are they doing what they need to do to put the best product on the field, at the end of the day I only care about what's going on in the clubhouse and I promise you those 25 guys in the clubhouse, I'll have those guys ready to rock," Stroman said.

Blue Jays general manager Ross Atkins said the team is excited about its veteran players like Justin Smoak, Kevin Pillar and Kendrys

Morales.

"We will to continue to bolster our roster anyway we possibly can," Atkins said. Stroman is looking to rebound from last year when he went 4-9 with a 5.54 ERA over 19 starts. He missed six weeks with right shoulder fatigue and said the shoulder was not right all season. "I'm back to being where I was in 2017," Stroman said. "I'm back to being extremely calm. I'm back to not having to worry about my shoulder. I'm excited for this year."

Stroman, who could become a free agent after the 2020 season, posted a 13-9 record in 2017.

"I want to play here," Stroman said. "I've been waiting to sign a long-term deal."

Stroman added that he has been "offered nothing" when it comes to a multi-year extension.

"We've had lengthy discussions with Marcus' representation," Atkins said. "Just like any negotiation we have a pretty strong stance on that because of the impact it could have on the potential of getting something done. We like to keep that completely private." □

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Hirscher skis to Austria's rescue with slalom gold at worlds

Continued from Page 18

"Ten more (World Cup) races are waiting for me," he said, when asked if this could be his last season in Alpine skiing. "We will see. Take a break and things will be way clearer than right now."

Hirscher, who is 30 next month, referred to the pressure and expectations he was under at these worlds. As the most popular athlete in ski-crazed Austria, he lives under permanent and intense scrutiny.

"The biggest emotion," said the seven-time overall World Cup champion, "is that the pressure has gone away from my shoulders. I'm feeling more light than before these world championships."

Throw in the fact he has been feeling under the weather for much of this week, and it's remarkable how he managed to pull off an opening run that even he was impressed by. Hirscher destroyed the field with an almost flawless leg that gave him a lead of 0.56 seconds from Alexis Pin-



Austria's Marcel Hirscher, center, winner of the men's slalom, celebrates with second-placed compatriot Michael Matt, left, and third-placed compatriot Marco Schwarz, at the alpine ski World Championships in Are, Sweden, Sunday, Feb. 17, 2019.

turault of France. No other skier was within a second of the lead and Hirscher told Austria's domestic broadcaster, ORF, that it was one of his best ever runs.

After crossing the line, he swept around the finish area and wagged his fin-

ger in front of the TV camera.

After coming second in the giant slalom behind Henrik Kristoffersen on Friday, the message from Hirscher was clear: The ski king was back.

It meant Hirscher could be

more circumspect in the second run — especially after a slip from Pinturault toward the end of his run that knocked the Frenchman into third place at the time. Hirscher needed to get down safely and he did just that, posting only the 25th

fastest time for the second leg.

"I knew that Alexis was not in the lead, so the first part I tried to push it really, really hard and then there were two or three gates where it was bumpy," Hirscher said. "Hopefully stay safe there and into the finish line. Not attack."

With his third world slalom title secure — matching the haul of the great Ingemar Stenmark — Hirscher saluted the fans in the grandstand and skied right into the arms of two other Austrians who completed the podium in a sweep that rescued the country's world championships.

Michael Matt, whose brother is former Olympic and world slalom champion Mario Matt, was 0.65 seconds behind Hirscher, and Marco Schwarz was a further 0.11 adrift.

"They've started right now to be really at the spot," Hirscher said, looking at his teammates in the post-race news conference, "and they will make us a lot of fun for the next years, I am sure." □

Associated Press

Wawrinka loses his 1st final since comeback from knee injury



Gael Monfils of France holds the trophy as he celebrates winning against Stan Wawrinka of Switzerland in three sets, 6-3, 1-6, 6-2, in the men's singles final of the ABN AMRO world tennis tournament at Ahoy Arena in Rotterdam, Netherlands, Sunday, Feb. 17, 2019.

Associated Press

ROTTERDAM, Netherlands (AP) — Three-time major champion Stan Wawrinka's rebuilt knee couldn't quite carry him to the title in Rotterdam on Sunday. Wawrinka lost his first final since his comeback a year ago from left knee surgeries, succumbing 6-3, 1-6, 6-2 to Gael Monfils of France at the ABN AMRO World Tournament. It was the Frenchman's

eighth career title.

"I tried a couple of times here. I lost the final in 2016," Monfils told Dutch national broadcaster NOS court-side. He said it was special to win a tournament that his idol, Arthur Ashe, also won. Ashe won back-to-back titles in Rotterdam in 1975 and '76.

Unseeded Wawrinka reached the final by beating top-seeded Kei Nishi-

kori in three sets on Saturday. But the Swiss finally ran out of steam in the final set as Monfils stepped up his game.

"In the third set I was a little bit more aggressive and I go a bit more for my shots, I served bigger and that helped me a lot," Monfils said. Wawrinka was going for his 17th career title and second in Rotterdam, after winning in 2015. □

U.S. seeks ways to recycle lithium batteries in cars, phones

By **TAMMY WEBBER**

Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — The U.S. government will lead an ambitious effort to develop technologies to recycle lithium-ion batteries from electric vehicles, cell-phones and other sources to ensure a reliable and affordable supply of metals crucial to battery production in anticipation of soaring global demand and potential shortages, Department of Energy officials said Friday.

Calling the effort a national security issue, the agency announced a \$15 million, three-year research and development project housed at the Argonne National Laboratory outside of Chicago. The collaboration between Argonne, Oak Ridge National Laboratory, the National Renewable Energy Laboratory and several universities also is an attempt to catch up with China and other countries that manufacture and recycle the vast majority of lithium-ion batteries, including those shipped back from the U.S., officials said. U.S. dependence on other countries for metals such as lithium, cobalt, nickel and graphite, as well as finished batteries, "undermines our national security" because the source countries are not always close allies, said Daniel R. Simmons, assistant secretary of the Energy Department's Office of Energy



In this July 27, 2018, file photo, workers transfer Lithium-ion batteries in a factory in Taizhou in east China's Jiangsu province.

Efficiency and Renewable Energy. Lithium salts primarily are extracted in a few South American and African countries, as well as Australia, and cobalt largely is mined in the Democratic Republic of Congo, experts said. The U.S. has a strained trading relationship with China, which produces a large share of the batteries and has been aggressively recycling them to recover metals it otherwise would have to import. But the demand for lithium-ion batteries also is driving the effort. With U.S. automakers set to expand production of electric vehicles

over the next 10 years, and batteries from existing electric vehicles nearing the end of their useful lives, it's time to figure out how to recycle them in the U.S., said Jeff Spangenberg, director of the new recycling center, called the ReCell Center. The center will focus on developing a process to allow recovered material to be put directly back into new batteries without having to break it down into their core components. "We've done a lot of analysis ... and if we don't recycle, we will run out of materials," Spangenberg said. "(And) if we had a steady

supply from recycled materials, we would reduce the risk." But recycling raw materials won't do the U.S. much good if it doesn't also make the batteries and finished products here, experts said. "There is no sense to recycle in the U.S. and not be able to use (the material) in the U.S. ... Otherwise you have to sell to China because that's where they make the batteries," said Hans Eric Melin, a consultant at London-based Circular Energy Storage who researches the lithium-ion battery industry. He also said it's important to figure out how to collect enough

Associated Press

batteries for recycling in the first place.

Melin said recycling also will become increasingly important as more companies use lithium-ion batteries in products. Big companies might be able to source enough raw materials, he said, but second-tier companies may have to rely on recycled material.

In 2018, about 100,000 metric tons of lithium-ion batteries were recycled globally, Melin said, adding that about 14,000 metric tons of cobalt was recovered from the batteries, or about one-fifth of the market for the metal.

Spangenberg said the government wants to eliminate the risk for U.S. companies to spur domestic battery production, other industries and jobs.

"By end of this, we should be able show industry it's doable, (then) let's scale up and get commercialized," he said.

James Greenberger, executive director of NAATBatt, a consortium of companies promoting U.S. advanced-battery manufacturing, said it's important that recycling is affordable enough that manufacturers of cars and other products won't have to pass the costs on to customers.

"Everybody's waiting for a technological solution," said Greenberger. "But I think we can absolutely catch up." □

Infosys forms community college partnership in Rhode Island

By **JENNIFER McDERMOTT**

Associated Press

PROVIDENCE, R.I. (AP) — Technology company Infosys announced a new partnership with a community college in Rhode Island to develop workers for digital jobs on Tuesday, with the goal of forming similar arrangements elsewhere in the country.

Infosys, an Indian digital design and technology company, formally launched its design and innovation center in Providence. Company executives said they're dedicating a lab there for

employees to work with Community College of Rhode Island students. College President Meghan Hughes said students will explore ways to work with new technology, learn marketable skills and build a professional network. She said Infosys understands the talent that community college students represent and the role the schools can play. Infosys CEO Salil Parekh and Infosys President Ravi Kumar said they'd like to eventually form partnerships with community col-

leges near the company's other U.S. hubs in Hartford, Connecticut, Indianapolis, Indiana and Raleigh, North Carolina, and near new centers in Arizona and Texas. Parekh said the company is committed to workforce development and wants to recruit students from all walks of life. Infosys already has a partnership with the Rhode Island School of Design, one of the world's most prestigious design schools. New designers at Infosys complete a strategic design program at the design school. □



Rhode Island Gov. Gina Raimondo, center, and Infosys CEO Salil Parekh, holding scissors to her left, cut a ribbon to formally launch the company's design and innovation center, Tuesday Feb. 12, 2019, in Providence, R.I.

Associated Press

Retailers, fashion brands struggle with racial insensitivity

By ANNE D'INNOCENZIO

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Retailers and top fashion brands like Gucci and Prada keep apologizing for products that smack of racial insensitivity.

The big question is: Why does it keep happening? Experts say many of these fashion companies live in a sort of bubble and lack the diversity in their staff that could vet their fashions. They also blame the increasing pressures facing the industry to push products from the design board to the stores and online in weeks rather than months without taking time to thoroughly review products.

"There is such pressure on speed that there is no time for consideration," said Allen Adamson, co-founder of Metaforce, a marketing firm. "When you are moving this fast, there is no time for perspective."

Just as quickly as mistakes are made, so too are they amplified over social media as shoppers take to Instagram, Twitter and Facebook to voice complaints. In the latest example, Katy Perry's fashion line this week pulled two types of shoes — which featured



In this Feb. 21, 2018, file photo, a model wears a creation as part of the Gucci women's Fall/Winter 2018-2019 collection, presented during the Milan Fashion Week, in Milan, Italy.

protruding eyes, nose and red lips — that critics likened to blackface. The singer and company said they were saddened that it was being compared to blackface and had envisioned the designs to be a nod to "modern art and surrealism."

Last week, Gucci removed a sweater off the market after complaints that the oversized collar designed to cover the face resembled blackface makeup.

In a statement posted on Twitter, Gucci offered a mea culpa and said that it planned to turn the incident "into a powerful learning moment for the Gucci team and beyond."

The latest blunders followed apologies from Italian designer Prada, which said in December it was no longer selling a line of accessories that featured a character with brown skin and exaggerated red lips. And last year, Swedish retailer H&M

pulled an ad that featured a black child donning a sweat shirt with the words "Coolest monkey in the jungle."

Experts say that companies are not keeping up with the pace and complexity of global expansion.

"The fact is, all retailers live in a global village today, whether they realize it or not," said Sonia Lapinsky, managing director in the retail practice at AlixPartners, a global consulting

firm. "And even if massive, global movements like the diversity movement and other 'woke' movements don't yet seem to be of the highest importance to all retailers, in every segment and in every corner of the planet, those that think that way are most likely doing so at their long-term peril." Adheer Bahulkar, a partner at consultancy A.T. Kearney, agreed, saying that brands need to pay attention to issues that might not be noticed within their own culture but that are "highly sensitive in another culture."

Acknowledging their mistakes, some companies are now trying to rectify the problem.

Gucci, for instance, announced Friday it will hire a global director for diversity and inclusion, a newly created role. It also is promising to launch a scholarship program to cultivate diverse design talent.

The announcement came after Gucci CEO Marco Bizzarri met in New York City's Harlem neighborhood with Dapper Dan, a well-known African-American designer, and other community members to hear their perspectives. □

Associated Press

Buffett's firm tweaks stock portfolio, adds Suncor, Red Hat

By JOSH FUNK

Associated Press

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — Billionaire Warren Buffett's company has taken a new stake in Canadian firm Suncor Energy and trimmed its huge Apple stake.

Berkshire Hathaway Inc. filed a quarterly update on its holdings with the Securities and Exchange Commission on Thursday.

The Omaha, Nebraska-based company said it owned 10.76 million Suncor shares at the end of last year. But these quarterly filings don't make clear who made the investments.

Buffett has said that investments of less than \$1 billion are likely to be the work of Berkshire's two other investment managers.

Berkshire said it sold nearly 3 million Apple shares but it



In this May 7, 2018, file photo, Berkshire Hathaway Chairman and CEO Warren Buffett smiles during an interview in Omaha, Neb., with Liz Claman on Fox Business Network's "Countdown to the Closing Bell."

still held 249.6 million shares of the iPhone maker. Buffett has said he considers Apple a consumer products company with a strong competitive position, rather than as a tech

company.

Investors follow what Berkshire buys and sells closely because of Buffett's successful track record. Berkshire officials don't generally comment on these

quarterly filings.

Buffett's company also increased its relatively new investment in JPMorgan Chase to 50.1 million shares, up from nearly 36 million shares last fall.

Berkshire also sold the 41.4 million Oracle shares it disclosed last quarter and revealed owning 4.2 million shares of Red Hat.

IBM is in the process of buying Red Hat in a \$34 billion deal that translates to roughly \$190 per Red Hat share.

Despite the deal announced at the end of October, Red Hat shares traded in the \$170s in November and December, so Berkshire may be betting on the deal going through instead of Red Hat's long-term prospects.

Berkshire also disclosed

owning 14 million shares of StoneCo Ltd., which is a Brazilian credit card processor. □



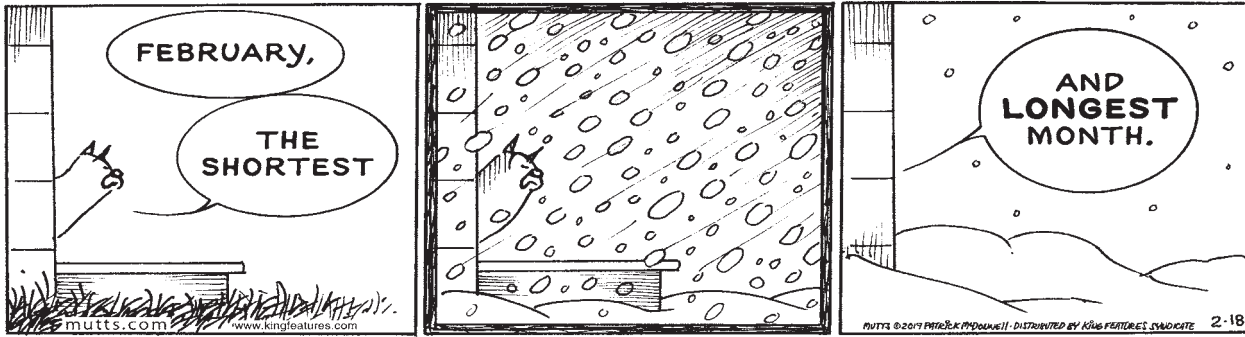
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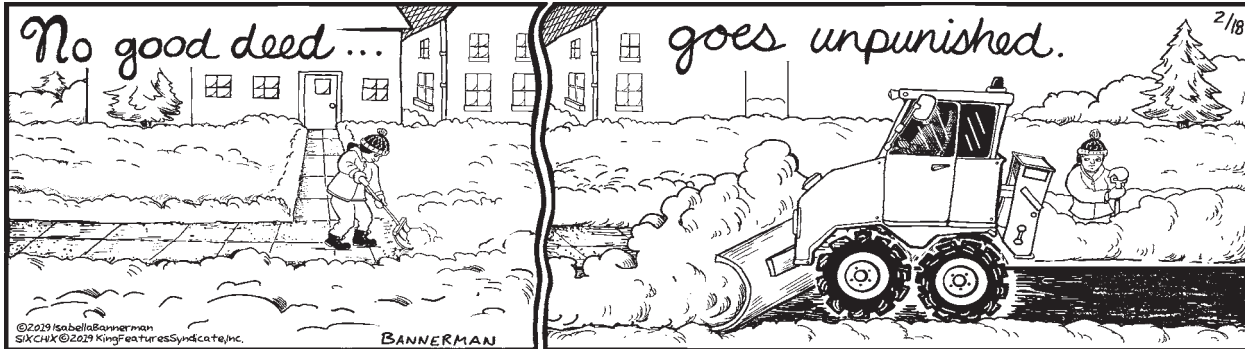
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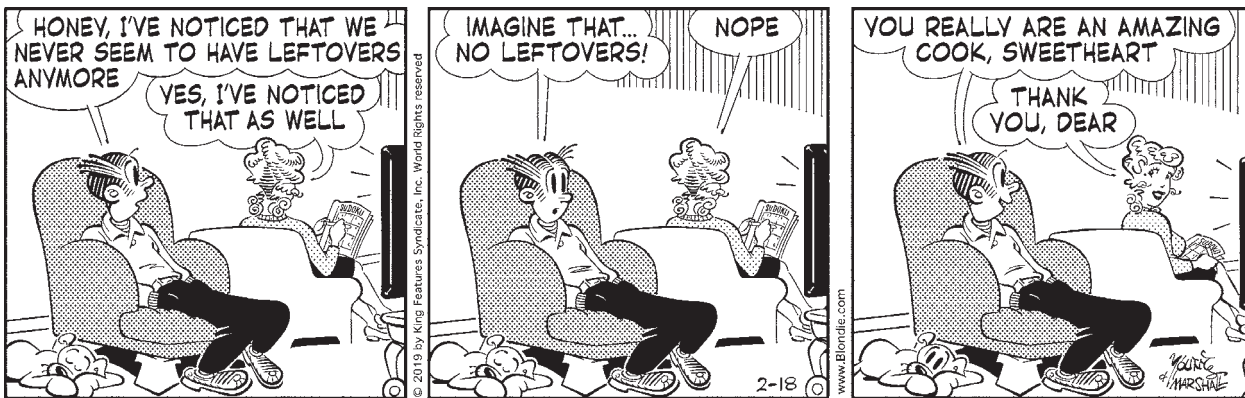
Mutts



6 Chix



Blondie



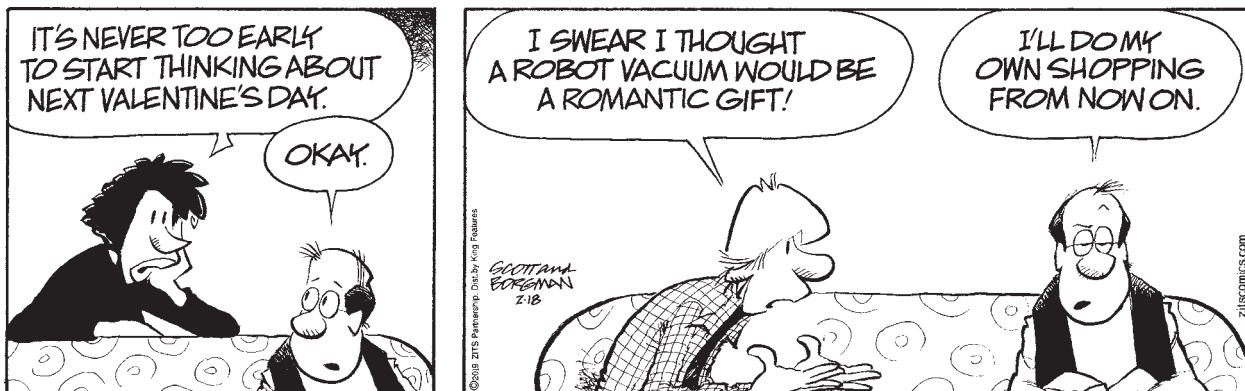
Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

1	5	9	4		2	7	
6		7		1	9		8
		3		6	8		
3					1		
2			7			8	
		9				6	
			4	2		6	
2		1	5		6		9
	7	6		8	9	5	4

Difficulty Level ★

2/18

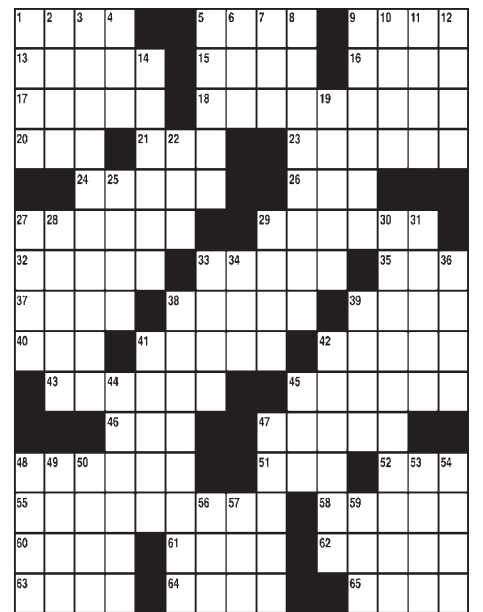
Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Saturday's puzzle answer

6	5	2	7	9	3	8	1	4
3	4	7	8	1	5	2	9	6
1	8	9	2	4	6	7	3	5
8	9	4	5	2	1	3	6	7
2	3	1	4	6	7	5	8	9
5	7	6	3	8	9	4	2	1
7	1	8	9	5	2	6	4	3
9	2	3	6	7	4	1	5	8
4	6	5	1	3	8	9	7	2

ACROSS

- Mayflower or Titanic
- Early man
- As ___ as molasses
- Printer cartridge contents
- Stringed instrument
- Dinner beverage
- Lessen
- Submissiveness
- Stewart or Serling
- One month ago: abbr.
- Truly
- Wed without fanfare
- "Grand ___ Opry"
- Drop charges against
- Picturesque
- Make butter
- Diagram
- PC alternative
- Yellowish wood
- Rub enough to make sore
- Lively
- Took a chair
- Item on the playground
- Gerald & Betty
- Become cheerful again
- Man of the cloth
- Objective
- Is unsuccessful
- Plant destroyers
- Emerson's monogram
- Maple tree secretion
- Undergarment
- Din
- Tardy
- Adams or Falco
- Sofa
- Facial features
- Massages
- Loaned



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

2/18/19

4 Teacher's favorite

5 "Home ___", Macaulay Culkin film

6 Give a nickname to

7 Gobbled up

8 So-so

9 Scandinavian nation

10 TV's "What's My ___?"

11 A single time

12 Garden intruder

14 Become part of again

19 Creek

22 Isn't ___ to;

probably won't

25 Move stealthily

27 Plays a role

28 Inexpensive

29 Out of danger

30 Remarkable

31 Hallmark products

33 Chocolate ___

cookies

34 "I've ___ it!"; cry of frustration

36 Abnormal sac

DOWN

- One with the title role
- Vagabond
- Too meager

Saturday's Puzzle Solved

MAN	APACE	DODO
UPON	LOHAN	EARL
GETA	LEAVE	SHOE
SEPTEMBER	PUPS	
	PIGS	GOO
STRIDE	PRINTERS	
TEENY	MAIZE	RAW
RANG	POISE	ONCE
ASA	ALONE	TRIED
PELICANS	RECEDE	
	DEC	LASH
PHIL	ASSISTANT	
LACE	TEACH	ROAD
OVER	EERIE	DUKE
WEDS	SKITS	NEW

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2/18/19

38 Less graceful

39 Dirt

41 Slips sideways

on ice

42 Buddy

44 Elevates

45 Boxer's foot

47 Liberates

48 Qualified

49 Say a rosary, e.g.

50 Abhor

53 As wise ___ owl

54 ___-up; confined

56 Part of a univ.'s

web address

57 Curved bone

59 ___ & vinegar;

dressing type

Classifieds

Halley Time Travel

Divi Village

1 BR WK # 8 & 9
21 & 25 weeks remain
\$9000 each
Divi links Golf
1 BR WK# 8 & 9
27 weeks remain
\$9000 each

Tropicana Resort

1 BR WK # 5,6,7,8
Ground floor \$7000 each
1 BR WK 7 & 8 \$7000 each
Dutch Village
1 BR WK 8 \$8500
24 weeks remain

For Rent

Aruba Divi Phoenix

1 BR WK # 8 \$2000
23 February 2 March 2019
Divi Links Golf
Studio WK #8 \$1500
23 February 2 March 2019

House For Sale

Catiri

3 Bedroom , 2 Bath
10 Min drive to beach
Central located \$250 K
Ponton
4 Bedroom , 3 Bath
Swimming pool \$350K
Aruba Divi Phoenix
1 BR Wk 10 building #8
6th floor 28 weeks \$16K
Costa Linda Beach Resorts
2 BR wk #10 3rd floor
Light House view \$25K

Marriott Ocean Club

Platinum
1 BR Ocean View \$10,000
2 BR Ocean View \$16,000
2 BR Ocean Front \$24,000

Divi Village

Studio WK # 6
22 weeks remain \$ 8000
The Mill Resorts and Suites
1 br wk # 4 \$7000
Divi Links Golf
1 BR WK 11 & 12
26 weeks remain each
\$9000 each
Studio Wk 11
26 weeks remain \$8000

Marriott Surf Club

2 BR Garden Vie w \$14,000
2 BR Ocean View \$ 15,000
2 BR Ocean Side \$16,000
2 BR Ocean Front \$ 27,000

La Cabana Beach & Casino

1 Br Wk # 11 & 12
4th floor pool/Ocean view
Sunday check in \$ 18, 000 both
Divi Village
Studio WK # 6
22 weeks remain \$8000

Renaissance Suites

1 BR WK # 9 \$9500
4th Floor Harbor/Ocean View
Aruba Divi Phoenix
Studio wk # 9
building 6
5th floor \$9000
30 weeks remain

Aruba Divi Phoenix

2 BR Penthouse WK # 11 & 12
Building 9 the 7th floor
27 weeks remain \$25K each
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1050 m2 \$110.000 american
dollars

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IMSAN 24 Hours

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Blood Bank Aruba 587 0002
Urgent Care 586 0448

EMERGENCY

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Noord	527 3200
Sta. Cruz	527 2900
San Nicolas	584 5000
Police Tipline	11141
Ambulancia	911
Fire Dept.	115
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Taxi D.T.S.	587 2300
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A1 Taxi Serv.	280 2828

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American Airlines	582 2700
Avianca	588 0059
Jet Blue	588 2244
Surinam	582 7896

CRUISES



February 17
Freewinds
February 18
Carnival Sunshine

AID FOUNDATIONS

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Alcoholics Anonymous
Tel. 736 2952

Narcotics Anonymous
Tel. 583 8989

Women in Difficulties
Tel. 583 5400

Centre for Diabetes
Tel. 524 8888

Child Abuse Prevention
Tel. 582 4433

Quota Club Tel. 525 2672

General Info

Phone Directory Tel. 118



Locals find monarch colony in Mexico after yearslong search

By **CHRISTOPHER SHERMAN**
Associated Press

AMANALCO DE BECERRA, Mexico (AP) — For years, park rangers and conservationists working around Mexico's Nevado de Toluca volcano chased rumors of a monarch butterfly colony that wintered high in a forest of oyamel firs in some corner of the 132,000-acre (53,419-hectare) national reserve.

Local woodsmen would report seeing some of the butterflies fluttering about and scouting teams would scramble to trek into the forest.

They eventually narrowed their search to a swath of communal lands more than 10,000 feet (3,048 meters) above sea level on the northwestern side of the park, but still couldn't find the colony.

"It was like an urban legend," said Gloria Tavera Alonso, a regional director with Mexico's agency for protected natural areas. Just a few days before Christmas though, a handful of communal landowners were on a routine patrol of their forest when they discovered the monarchs on a steep mountainside bisected by a dirt track far from the volcano's iconic crater. The butterflies were hidden in plain sight.

In towering firs, they hung in massive clumps on sagging boughs, their brilliant orange and black colors concealed by the pale underside of their closed wings. Jose Luis Hernandez Vazquez, a local forester, said landowners initially worried about announcing the find. "We didn't make a big deal," he said.

Instead, he contacted the agency for protected natural areas and other



Monarch butterflies cluster on tree branches in the Amanalco de Becerra sanctuary, on the mountains near the extinct Nevado de Toluca volcano, in Mexico, Thursday, Feb. 14, 2019.

Associated Press

government stakeholders who came to confirm the existence of the colony in mid-January.

Mario Castaneda Rojas, director of the Nevado de Toluca reserve, said officials stopped in their tracks when a butterfly crossed their path.

"Something is happening," he recalled thinking.

At the end of last month, Mexican officials announced that the overall population of monarch butterflies wintering in central Mexico was up 144 percent over the previous year. Researchers found the butterflies occupying 15 acres (6 hectares) of pine and fir forests in the mountains of Michoacan and Mexico states, compared to only 6 acres (2 hectares) the winter prior.

The monarch butterfly population, like that of other insects, fluctuates widely depending on a variety of factors, but scientists say the recoveries after each

big dip tend to be smaller, suggesting a decline in the number migrating from Canada and the United States.

This winter's population figure, however, was the largest since 2006-2007.

Chip Taylor, director of Monarch Watch and an ecology professor at the University of Kansas, who runs a monarch tagging program, said that established colonies normally have butterflies. But he knew it was going to be a better year when others were spotted.

"When the population really grows, they'll see monarchs where they don't see them in normal years," Taylor said.

On a recent afternoon the air filled with monarchs as the midday sun sliced through the thick forest, leading some of the butterflies to take flight. Others lay on the ground after reaching the end of their life cycle.

While some colonies are open to the public, government officials say the newly registered colony in Nevado de Toluca won't be.

The reason, said Castaneda, is "so that we can guarantee lively, healthy exemplars that don't have the type of distress that in some given moment they might have with the visitors during the four-month hibernation season."

Officials also want to protect the habitat where butterflies have found the ideal combination of climate, fresh water and flowers to spend the winter and mate.

Without careful conservation, the danger is evident. Mexico has had success with recent efforts focused on illegal logging in the butterflies' habitat. But logging is still visible within the park, even though officials say it is carefully regulated and mainly aimed at removing diseased or wind-downed trees.

Not far from the colony, dense woods now give way to rolling meadows.

Castaneda and Hernandez, the forester, are working with landowners to teach them about conservation and make it clear why protecting the butterflies' habitat is important.

They also plan to form a community surveillance brigade that will be paid to keep a close eye on the new colony, which they hope will be around for many more years. □

Scientists fine-tune method to save rhinos



Female southern white rhino, 17-year-old Hope, is shot with tranquilizing darts, so a team of experts can harvest its eggs, at a zoo park in Chorzow, Poland, Wednesday, Feb. 13, 2019.

Associated Press

By **PETR DAVID JOSEK**

Associated Press

CHORZOW, Poland (AP) — Only two northern white rhinos exist in the world: both are female and nei-

ther can bear calves. But scientists have not given up hope of saving the species from extinction.

They succeeded last year in creating hybrid embryos

using frozen northern white rhino sperm and eggs from a southern white rhino, a closely related sub-species. Now they are working on how to implant the embryos into a surrogate mother to bring them to term, and once they've mastered that, they can create purebred northern white rhino embryos that would be carried by a southern white.

As part of that work, on Wednesday, a team led by Thomas Hildebrandt of the Leibniz Institute for Zoo and Wildlife Research in Berlin harvested egg cells from a female southern white rhino, 17-year-old Hope, at a zoo park in the Polish city of Chorzow. □



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Beckham family steals the show at London Fashion Week

By SYLVIA HUI
GREGORY KATZ
Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Victoria Beckham doesn't need celebrities at her fashion shows — her A-list family provides more than enough star power.

The designer's husband, retired soccer superstar David Beckham, and the couple's four children turned up as guests of honor Sunday to support her London Fashion Week show. The former Spice Girl was among the big names showcasing their latest designs in the British capital, alongside Vivienne Westwood, Burberry and Roland Mouret.

A look at Sunday's highlights:

FAMILY AFFAIR AT VICTORIA BECKHAM

The front row at Victoria Beckham's runway show has a younger average age than the VIP seats at other shows. The designer's youngest, 7-year-old Harper, sat on her dad's lap for a cuddle as he chatted ami-



A model wears a creation by designer House of Holland at the Autumn/Winter 2019 fashion week runway show in London, Saturday, Feb. 16, 2019.

ably with American Vogue editor Anna Wintour.

Like everyone else, Beckham family members in the audience whipped out smartphones to take a picture of Victoria Beckham when she came out for a bow at the end of the display.

The designer said she wanted to channel "modern femininity" and cinematic drama for the collection and had in mind a particular image of the woman

wearing her clothes.

"She's proper but she's definitely not prim," Beckham wrote in her show notes.

The result was a mix of ladylike classics — tailored check blazers, tweeds, ar-

gyle jumpers, silky blouses neatly tucked into pencil skirts — with saucy, eye-catching details like knee-high, open-toed sock boots in lipstick red or leopard, or bright satin stilettos in citrus, bright fuchsia and char-treuse.

The bell-bottomed trouser, a style the designer has adopted as her signature, made an appearance. So did the trend for checks, which still appears to be going strong. One ensemble featured a wide-lapelled coat, trousers and a tote bag in the same brown check pattern.

SUITED AND BOOTED AT ROLAND MOURET

Roland Mouret, the designer once best known for his skin-tight "bandage" dress,

has moved on. For the upcoming autumn and winter season, his clothes are all about oversized shapes and mannish suits.

Mouret, whose fans include Meghan, the Duchess of Sussex, said he was interested in proportions and styling pieces without regard to traditional gender divides.

There's a creamy white double-breasted trouser suit, and boxy wide blazers were worn over silky, flowing dresses. A slouchy, checked suit with drawstring trousers was paired with a low-cut Lurex top.

For those looking for a properly oversized piece, Mouret offers up a huge, shaggy faux fur coat that is sure to be the talk of the party wherever it goes. □

Review: Robert Ellis switches to keys on 'Texas Piano Man'

By STEVEN WINE
Associated Press

Robert Ellis, "Texas Piano Man" (New West)

Texans play guitar. Stevie Ray Vaughan? Willie Nelson? Buddy Holly? Johnny "Guitar" Watson? Guitarists. Elton John is not a Texan, but when he recorded "Texas Love Song" (a deep-cut gem), the tune featured not piano, but guitar.

Now here's Houston native Robert Ellis, an excellent guitar player, sitting at a piano bench on the cover and on all 11 songs of his latest album, "Texas Piano Man." It's a bold departure, even for Ellis, always an iconoclastic contrarian. Instead of quirky country, Ellis performs pop. He brings his excellent band along, which means there are guitar solos from the wild and wonderful Kelly Doyle.

Ellis gets too silly on occasion, but more often his



This cover image released by New West Records shows "Texas Piano Man," a release by Robert Ellis.

Associated Press

humor gives the set extra sparkle.

On "Passive Aggressive," the clever arrangement fits the title, and "Nobody Smokes Anymore" declares that situation a drag. "Guess I'll be the only one who looks good in pictures," Ellis notes.

Elsewhere he sings about strained relations that sound complicated, a phenomenon not limited to Texas. □

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<p>Wednesday at 8:00pm</p> <p>Noche Latina</p>	<p>Sunday at 8:00pm</p> <p>Aruba Has Talent</p>
<p>Thursday at 8:00pm</p> <p>Circus Night</p>	<p>Every night at 7:30pm 8:30pm 9:30pm</p> <p>Liquid Firework Show</p>

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'High Flying Bird' is an exhilarating fast break

By **JAKE COYLE**
Associated Press

Straight, "no chaser" is how NBA agent Ray Burke (Andre Holland) likes his news in "High Flying Bird," and the same could be said for the cinematic preferences of director Steven Soderbergh, whose stripped-down latest is a fleet-footed fast break of a movie. "High Flying Bird," Soderbergh's second film shot on iPhones and his first for Netflix, has been made with an exhilarating, no-nonsense immediacy. Standard movie gloss has been happily jettisoned to give it to us straight. The "it" is the free-flowing torrent of Tarell Alvin McCraney's words (McCraney's play was the basis for Barry Jenkins' "Moonlight"), whose hyper-verbal script has given the film's talented cast, led by Holland, plenty to chew on. Burke is a slick, fast-talking agent who, months into a lockout, is carrying out a scheme of mysterious objectives. Soderbergh and McCraney promptly submerge us in a soliloquy of Burke's at a Manhattan



This image released by Netflix shows André Holland in a scene from "High Flying Bird."

restaurant meeting with his star client, the recent number-one pick of the draft, Erik Scott (newcomer Melvin Gregg). He speaks of ball as something sacred and pure and hints at the larger powers that control the game with a bravado only slightly undercut when his credit card is rejected. Burke pays in cash, hands Scott an envelope with

something he calls "a bible" in it, and huffs it down the street. It's a breathless start to a breathless movie, set to "Sweet Smell of Success" speed. It pauses only for Burke, after the lunch, to walk downtown while Richie Havens plays. What we come to gather is that Burke is trying to take control of his own destiny and, for a moment at least, hold the game in his hands. "High Flying Bird" is a heady movie, full of political thought about sport, entertainment, race and

power. Rather than float on production value, it sustains itself on the tension of ideas, exchanged rapid-fire in gleaming office towers. There is almost no basketball in "High Flying Bird," nor are there any of the normal sports-movie clichés. It's concerned with "the game on top of the game," as the wise Bronx coach Spencer (Bill Duke) calls the system imposed on basketball, one controlled mainly by white billionaires like owner David Seton (Kyle MacLachlan),

who's negotiating with player rep Myra (a terrific Sonja Sohn). What Burke has in mind is disruption and, maybe, a moment of freedom for the entertainers in the middle from the powers that be above. That such a framework is a metaphor for other institutions — the movie industry, most obviously — isn't hard to miss. Both iPhones and Netflix have a pivotal role in Burke's brewing rebellion. Burke's hustle is Soderbergh's. "High Flying Bird" is, itself, a crossover dribble to blow past the system. For a movie full of characters who sincerely espouse the beauty of basketball, "High Flying Bird" could use more of the sport. I wish the filmmaking more obviously shared its characters' affection for the game, not just their politics. There's a trio of real NBA-ers (Reggie Jackson, Donovan Mitchell, Karl-Anthony Towns) who appear now and again in black-and-white interviews to talk about the head-spinning leap from college to the pros — "a monster I don't think anyone can prepare for," says Jackson. They give the film an added flavor of reality but also interrupt the movie's flow once it gets humming. □

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GINA RODRIGUEZ | ANTHONY MACKIE
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the upside
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JANDINO ASPORAAT | LILIANA DE VRIES
DUTCH
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Country star Miranda Lambert reveals secret marriage



In this April 15, 2018 file photo, Miranda Lambert performs "Keeper of the Flame" at the 53rd annual Academy of Country Music Awards at the MGM Grand Garden Arena in Las Vegas.

Associated Press
NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — Country star Miranda Lambert celebrated Valentine's Day weekend with the announcement that

she secretly got married. A representative for the singer confirmed the marriage after Lambert posted photos on social media Saturday showing her in a

white lace gown with her new husband, Brendan Mcloughlin. She wrote that in honor of Valentine's Day, she wanted to share that she "met the love of my life. And we got hitched!" It's unclear when the marriage occurred. The two-time Grammy winner was previously married to country star Blake Shelton, but she hadn't spoken publicly about her relationship with Mcloughlin before Saturday. The Texas-born singer who is also a member of the group Pistol Anies has had hits with songs like "The House That Built Me," "White Liar," "Mama's Broken Heart," and "Gunpowder and Lead." □

'Black Panther' costume designer blazes trail to inspire

By JONATHAN LANDRUM Jr.
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Ruth E. Carter is a black woman blazing a trail as a costume designer in a film industry with not many who look like her. But through her upcoming career achievement award and Oscar nomination for her Afro-futuristic wardrobes in the superhero film "Black Panther," Carter believes she can "knock down" more doors so others like herself can walk through them.

If Carter wins an Oscar for best costume design this month, she would become the first African-American to win in the category. Despite "very stiff competition," Carter believes she has a good chance going up against Mary Zophres, Alexandra Byrne and three-time Academy Award winner Sandy Powell, who is nominated for "The Favourite" and "Mary Poppins Returns."

"I'm a contender," said Carter, who already won for "Black Panther's" costumes at the Critics' Choice Awards last month and was recently honored at New York Fashion Week.

"The designers are extremely talented designers, but I'm glad that I'm giving them a run for their money," she added. "That's how I feel. ... I feel empowered. I feel invigorated. I feel masterful."

Carter, 58, will also be honored Tuesday for her illustrious career at the 21st annual Costume Designers Guild Awards.

"She is one of my favorite people," said Danai Gur-



In this Jan. 15, 2019 photo, designer Ruth E. Carter, nominated for an Oscar for best costume designs for "Black Panther," poses for a portrait in Los Angeles.

ira, who starred in "Black Panther" as Okoye, one of kingdom of Wakanda's elite warriors. "I've adored her from the minute I met her. She deserves all the honors in what she's done and accomplished in her astounding work of beautiful integrity."

In three decades, Carter has been behind-the-scenes in some of Hollywood's biggest films. She's garnered Oscar nominations for her work in Spike Lee's "Malcolm X" and Steven Spielberg's "Amistad," and received praise for her period ensembles in other projects such as Lee Daniels' "The Butler," Ava DuVernay's "Selma" and the reboot of "ROOTS." She's created costumes for Oprah Winfrey, Denzel Washington, Eddie Murphy and even Jerry Seinfeld for the "Seinfeld" pilot.

Carter called the guild honor an "incredible achievement" for herself and others who desire to follow her footsteps. "This award means so much to me," she said. "I believe that I will stand on that stage and look out into the audience of young women and men that have careers in costume design that I helped foster. For that achievement, it means everything." Carter played an influential role as lead costume designer in making Ryan Coogler's "Black Panther" a cultural phenomenon. She said she wanted to infuse the pride of African diaspora into the character's stylish and colorful garments to help bring Wakanda to life. "She gives you a wardrobe that helps enhance your character," said Bassett, who played the mother of Chadwick

Boseman's heroic character T'Challa aka the Black Panther. She said she's worked with Carter on other films, calling her "just warm, open, brilliant and she keeps fighting until she gets it right all the way to the end."

Carter drew inspiration for the "Black Panther" costumes after traveling to Africa, speaking with people of the continent to understand the history of each artifact to ensure the different characteristics were represented properly in the film. She had help from her team of shoppers, illustrators and researchers, along with Marvel as the overseer. All the preparation and hard work paid off. The costumes have become so popular that people from different ethnicities— young and older — have worn Black Panther-

themed costumes to theaters and at parties. Some people are even discussing dressing in Wakanda couture for an Oscar brunch.

"I'm very proud to have given these children a new superhero," she said. "I've met young ladies that have built their costumes with their father and went into great detail about how each part was made. I just felt like there was a paradigm shift. ... We just wanted to do something positive that was impactful and meaningful for people. You never know how it's going to be received or looked at, but we felt like it reached everyone, not only African-Americans."

Carter got her first start in 1988 on Lee's "School Daze," the director's second film. They've since worked together on more than 10 films including "Do the Right Thing" and "Jungle Fever." She's also worked with Robert Townsend on "The Five Heartbeats" and Keenen Ivory Wayans on "I'm Gonna Get You Sucka."

The early '90s was a perfect time for Carter to enter into the film industry. She called herself lucky because she fit the mold for filmmakers such as Lee, Townsend and Wayans who were looking for a "new direction for the artistry." "They wanted someone who was just starting out with a fresh mind and maybe could bring new ideas to the industry," she said. "I was that person. I bounced back and forth between New York and L.A. for like 10 years. That's not usual." □

Swiss actor Bruno Ganz, star of 'Downfall,' dies at 77

Associated Press

BERLIN (AP) — Swiss actor Bruno Ganz, who played Adolf Hitler cooped up in his Berlin bunker in "Downfall" and an angel in Wim Wenders' "Wings of Desire," has died. He was 77. German news agency dpa reported that Ganz's management said Saturday he

died in Zurich.

Ganz, a prominent figure in the German-language theater world, shifted into movies in the 1970s, appearing in Werner Herzog's "Nosferatu" and Wenders' "The American Friend" among others.

In one of his more recent appearances, he starred

as Sigmund Freud in "The Tobacconist," released last year.

Berlin Mayor Michael Mueller said Ganz was "one of the greats" of the screen and stage.

He said that "the death of Bruno Ganz is a great loss for the German-speaking theater and film world." □



In this Thursday, Sept. 10, 2015, file photo, Actor Bruno Ganz arrives for the screening of the movie Remember at the 72nd edition of the Venice Film Festival in Venice, Italy.

Associated Press

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